

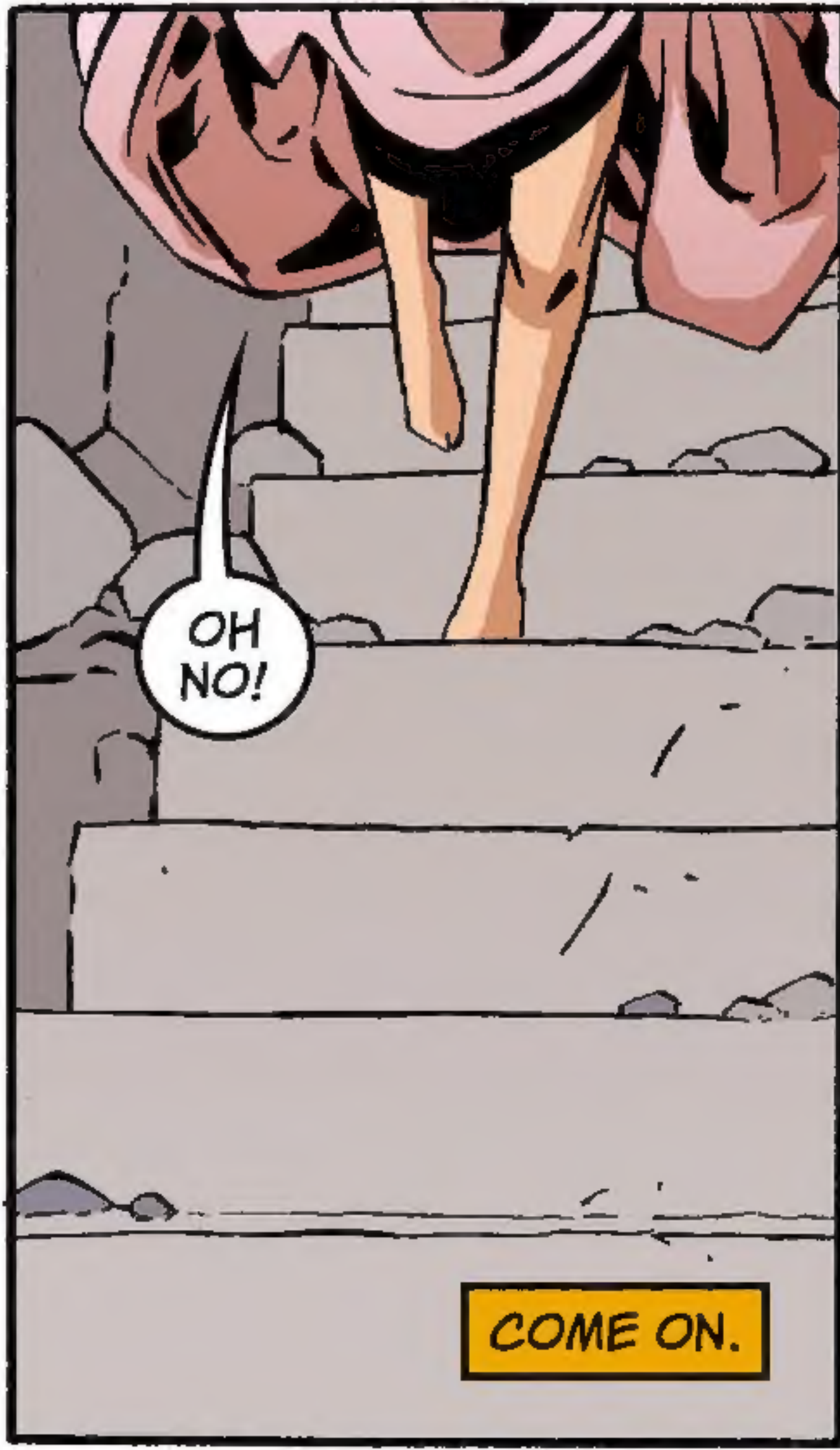
VERTIGO

WILLINGHAM
BUCKINGHAM
LEIALOHA
McMANUS

121

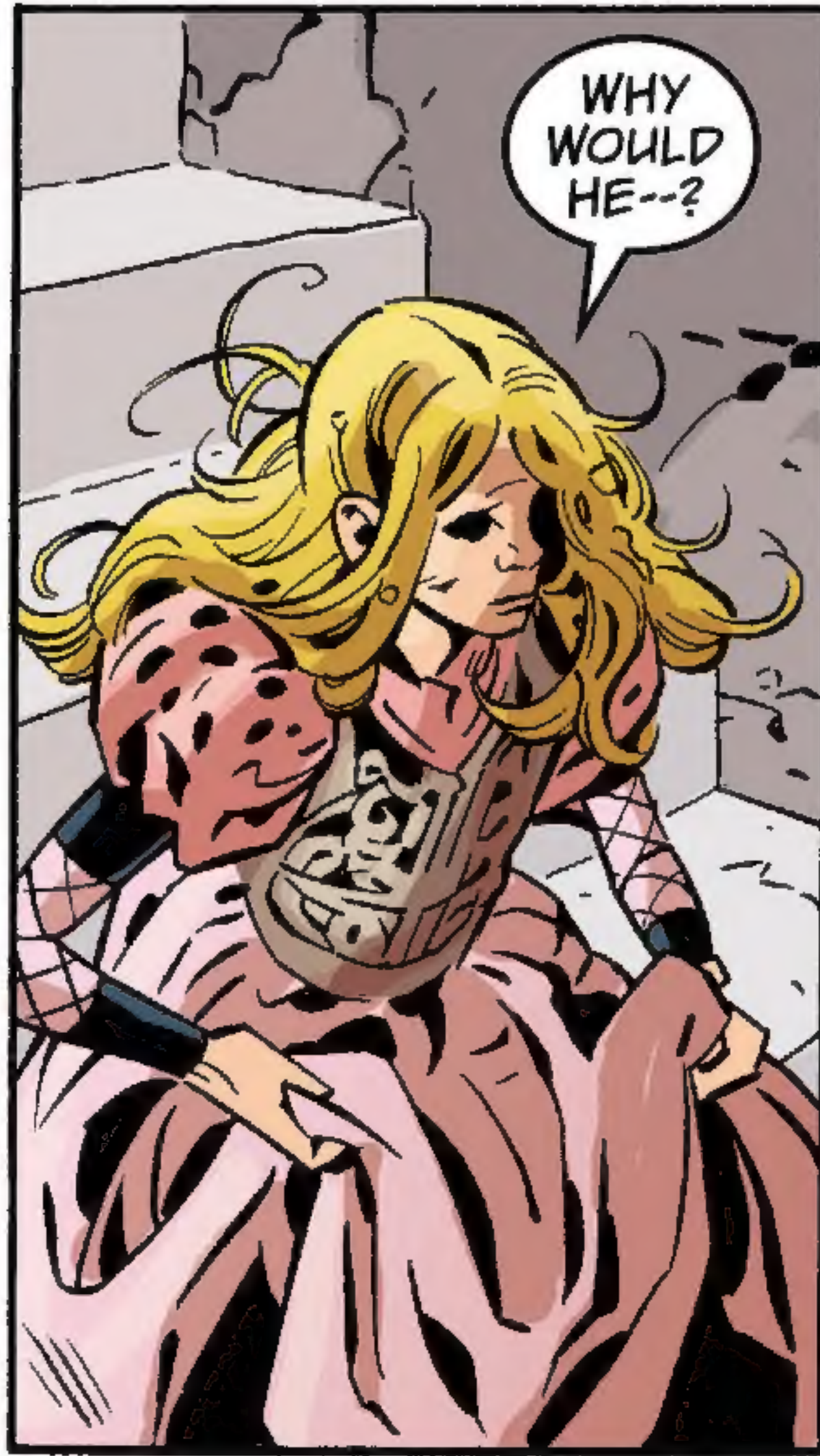
F A B L E S™

Nov '12
suggested for
mature readers
vertigo.comics.com

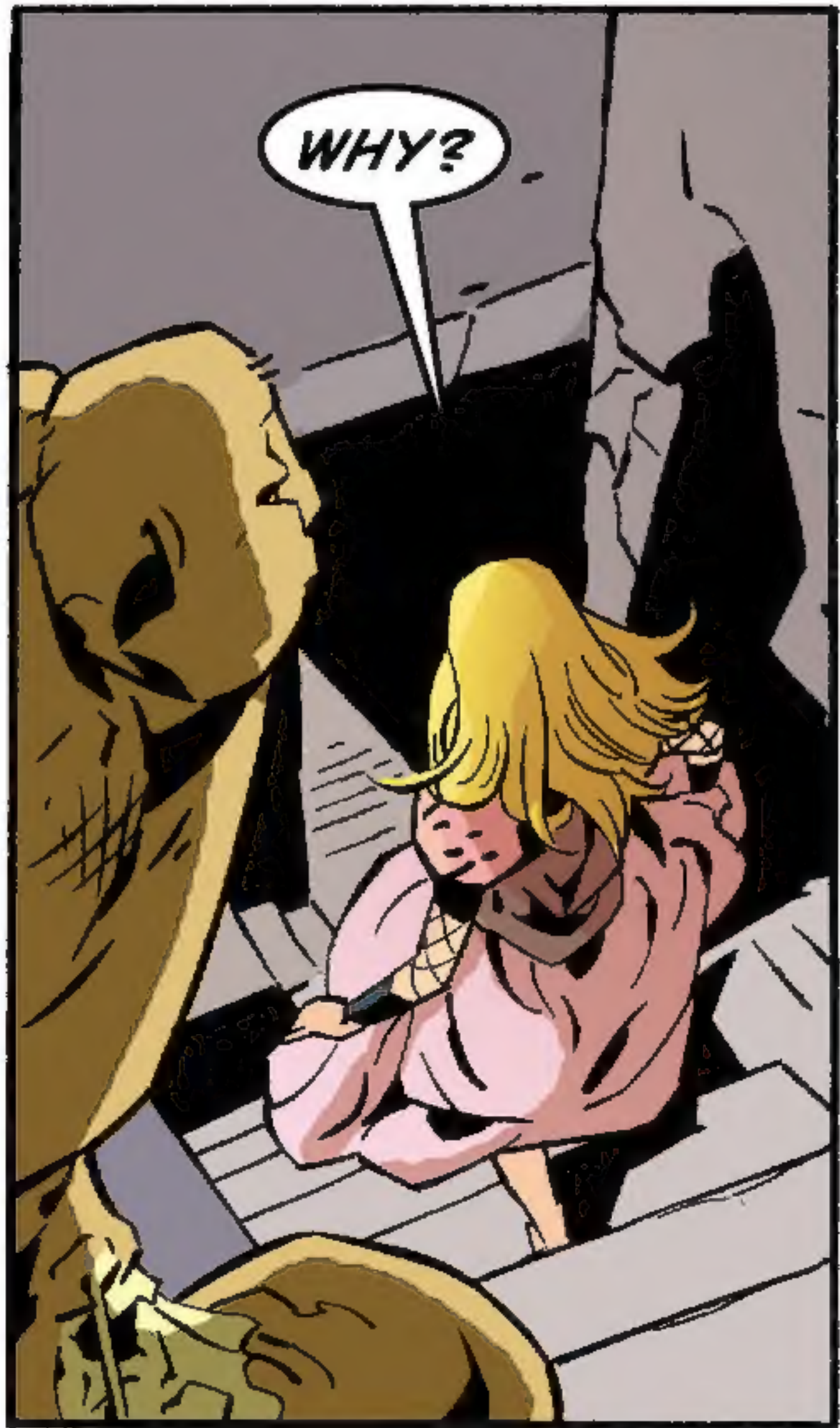


OH NO!

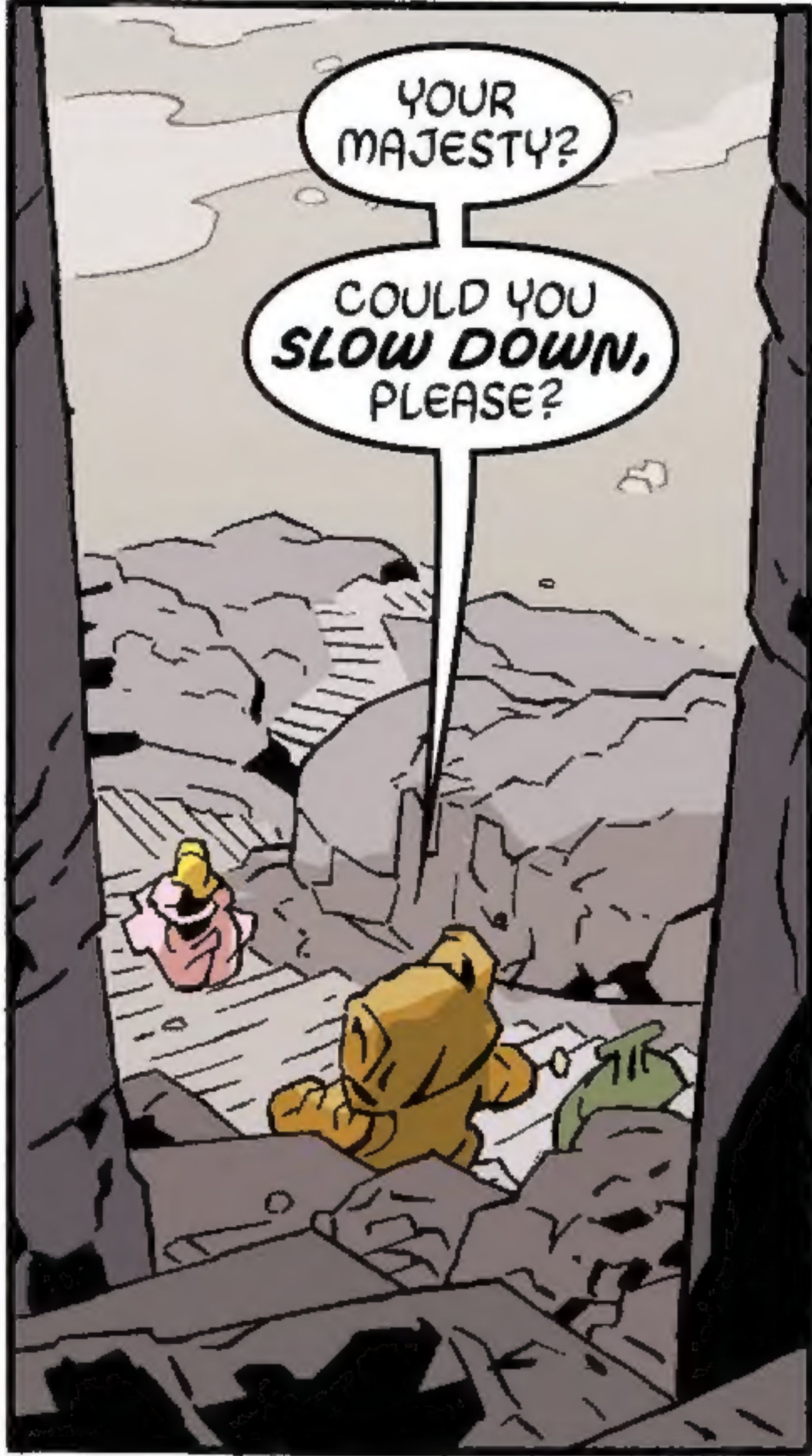
COME ON.



WHY WOULD HE--?



WHY?



YOUR MAJESTY?
COULD YOU SLOW DOWN, PLEASE?

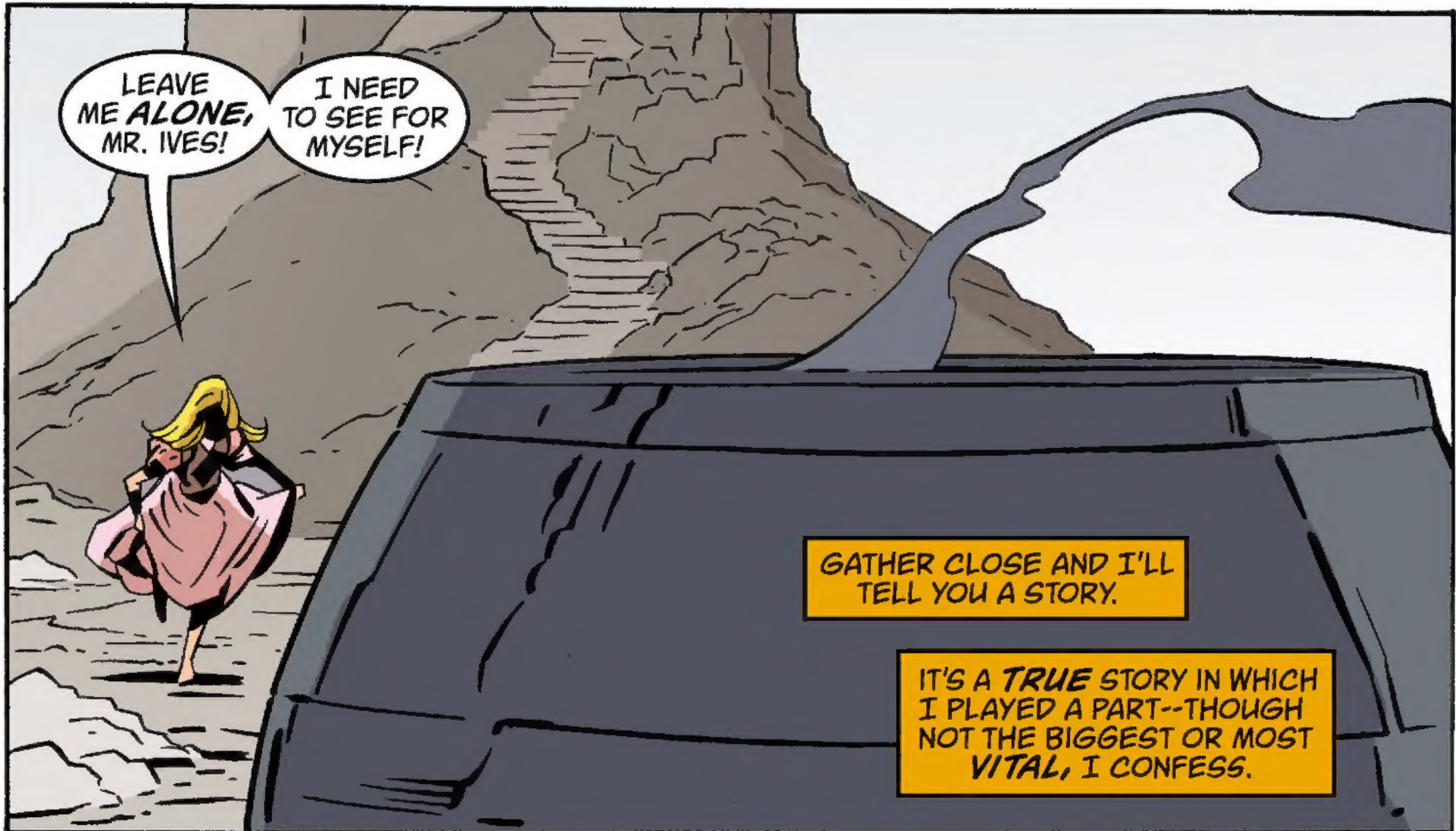


THESE STEPS CAN BE TRICKY!
IF YOU WERE TO--



HURRY UP, NOW.

GO AWAY!



LEAVE ME ALONE, MR. IVES!
I NEED TO SEE FOR MYSELF!

GATHER CLOSE AND I'LL TELL YOU A STORY.

IT'S A *TRUE* STORY IN WHICH I PLAYED A PART--THOUGH NOT THE BIGGEST OR MOST VITAL, I CONFESS.

TOY REPAIR

Chapter 8
of CUBS in
TOYLAND

In which we surrender to the harsh lessons of even the most magical of lives
(though we shouldn't say that's the same as being defeated by them).

BILL WILLINGHAM
writer/creator

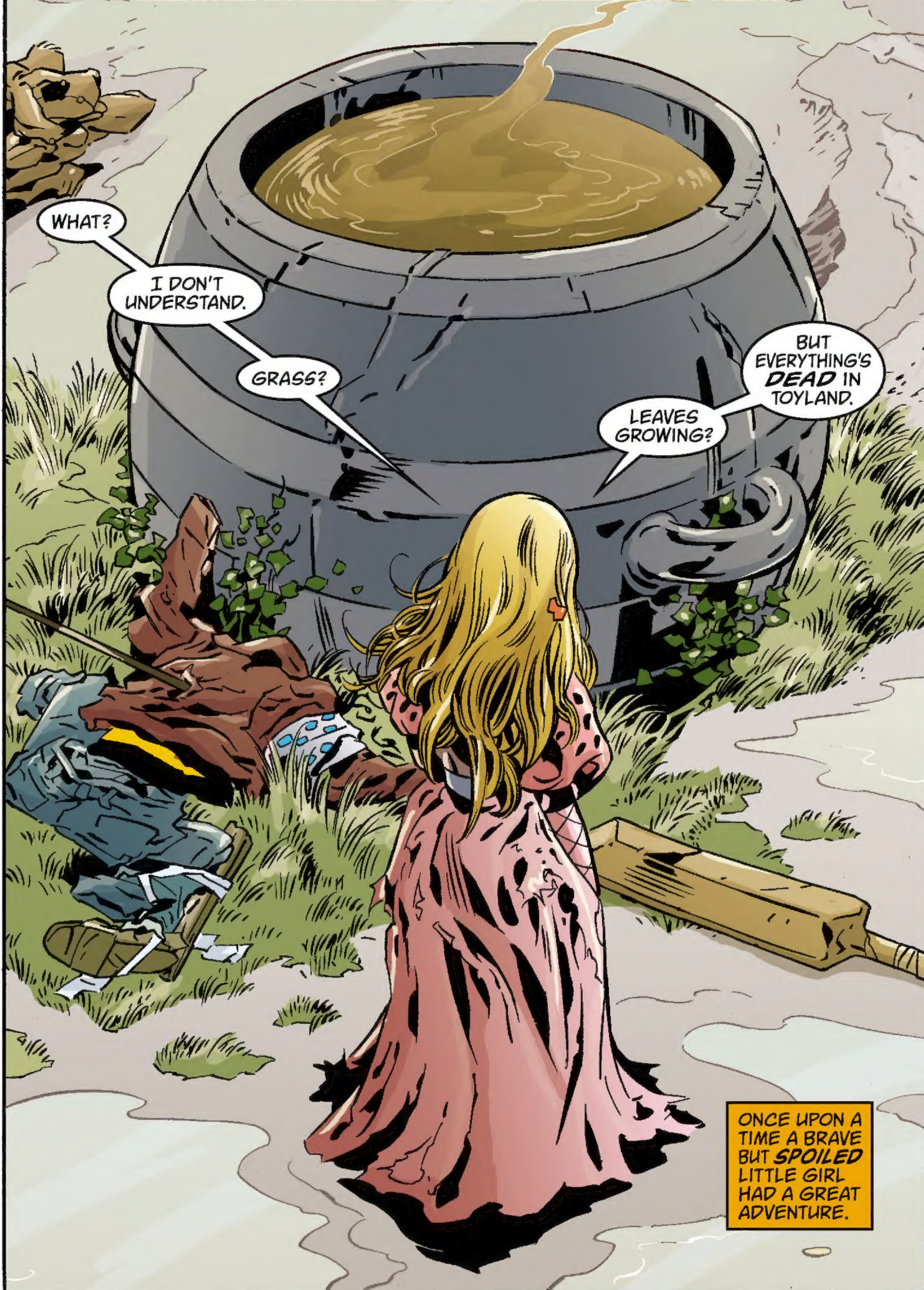
MARK BUCKINGHAM
pencils

STEVE LEIALOHA
inks

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
colors

TODD KLEIN
letters

GREGORY LOCKARD asst. ed. **SHELLY BOND** editor



WHAT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

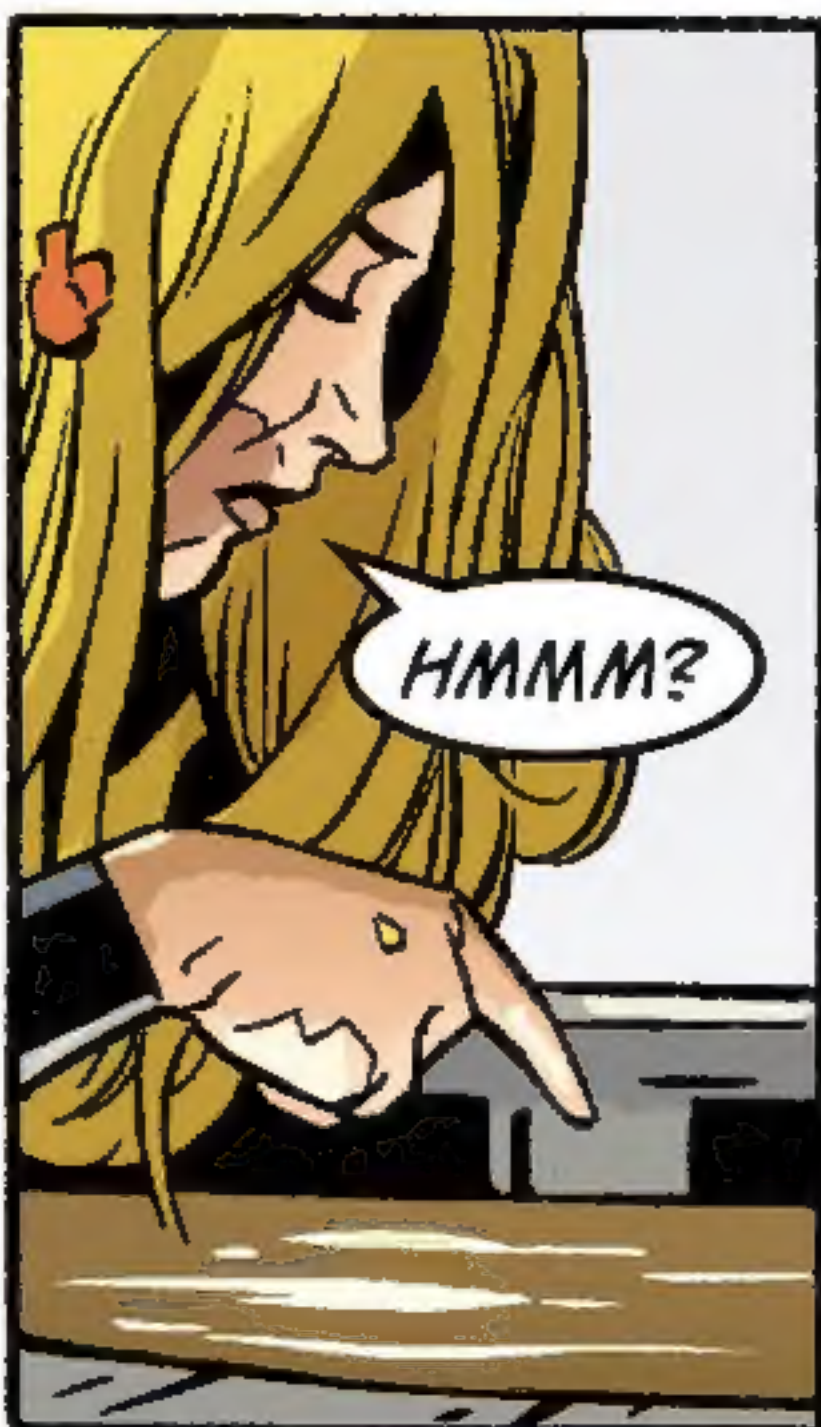
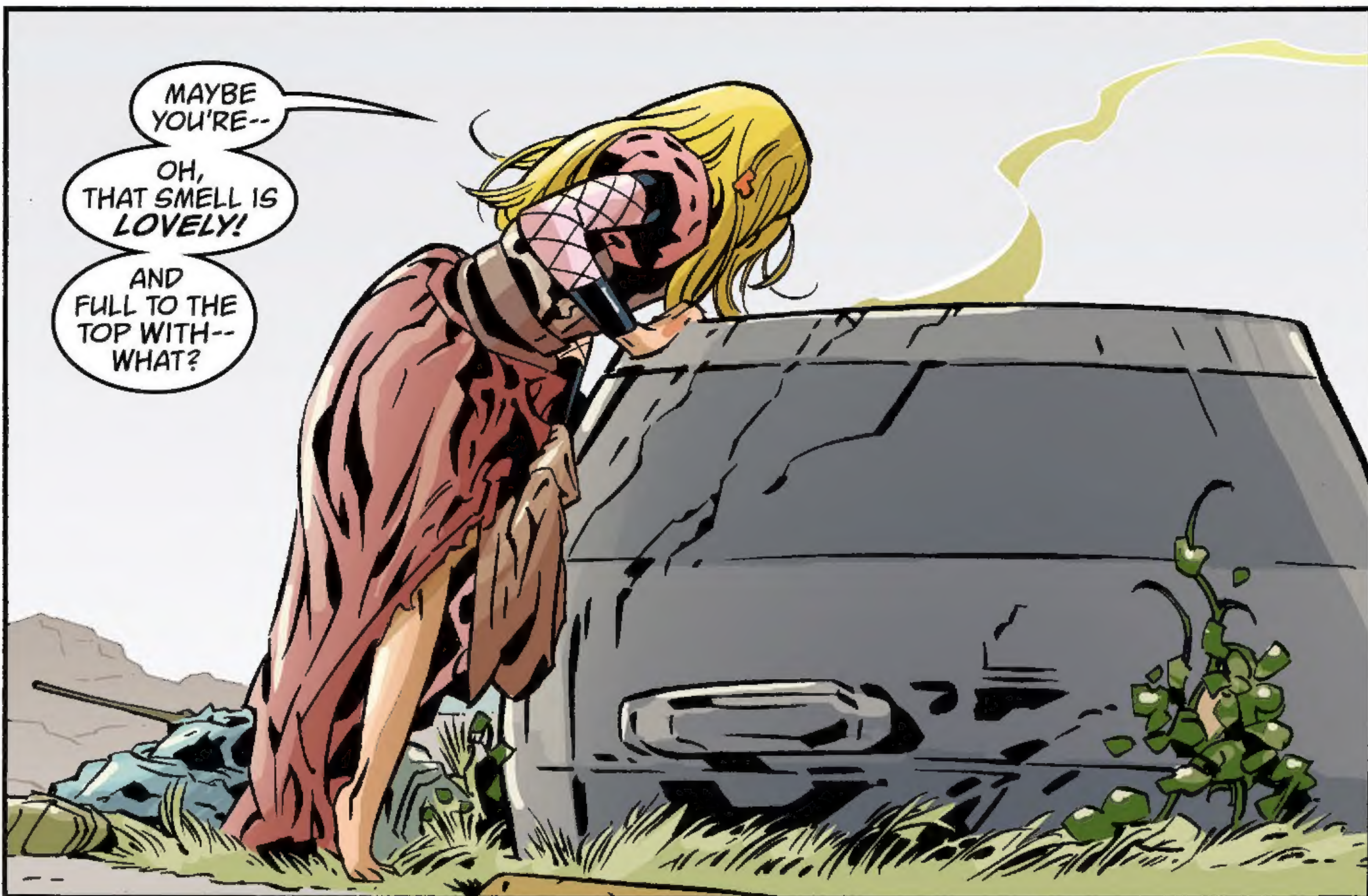
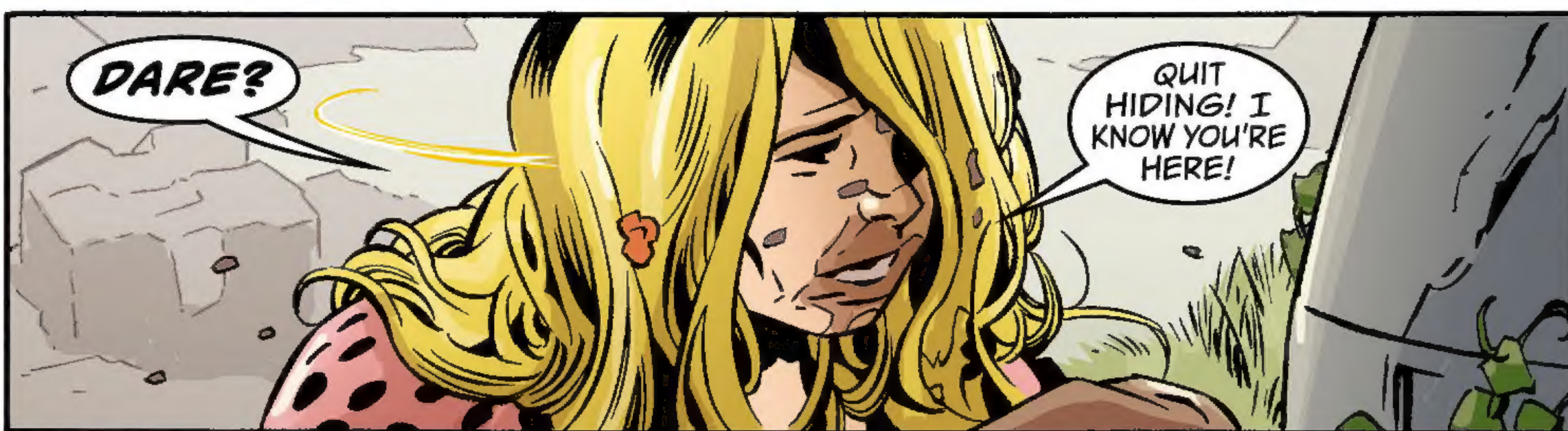
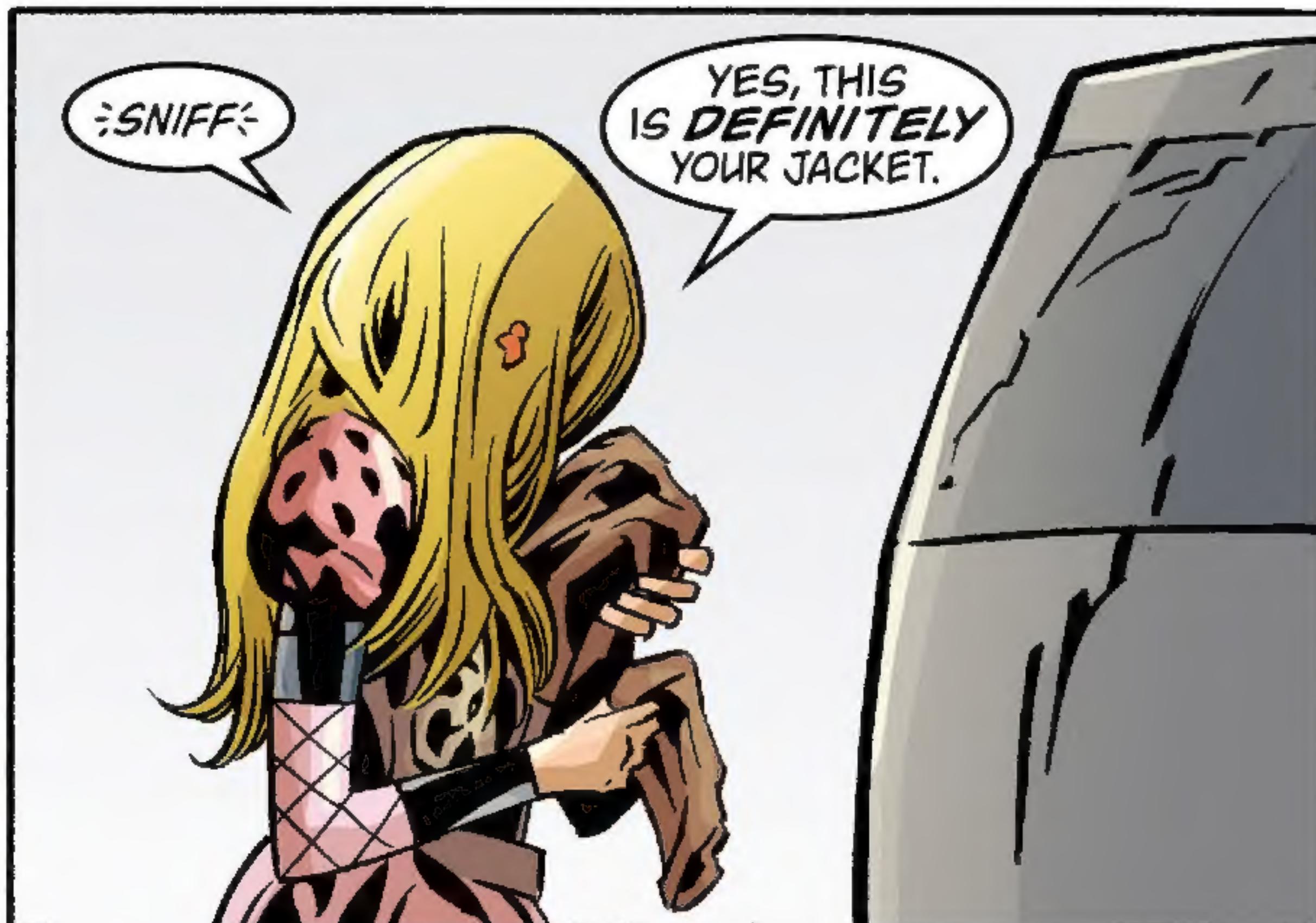
GRASS?

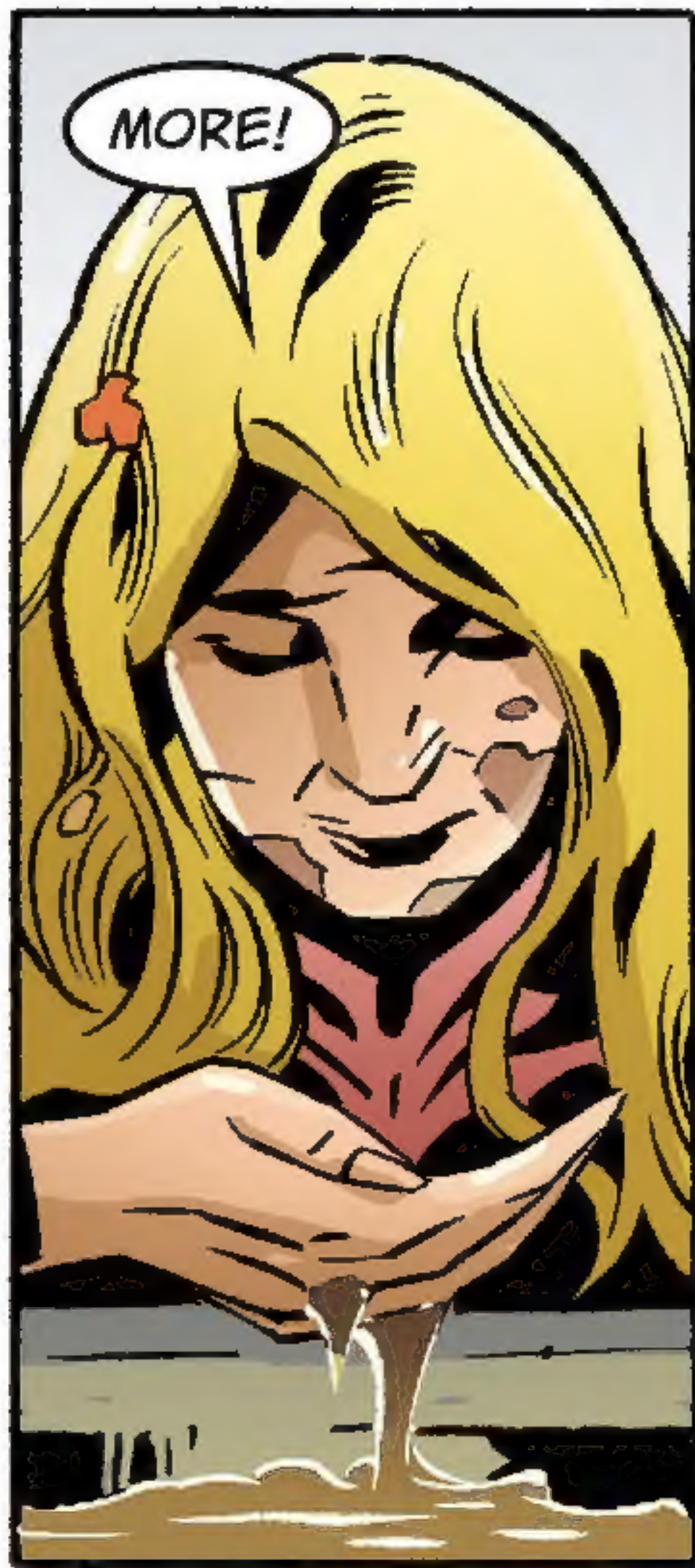
LEAVES GROWING?

BUT EVERYTHING'S DEAD IN TOYLAND.

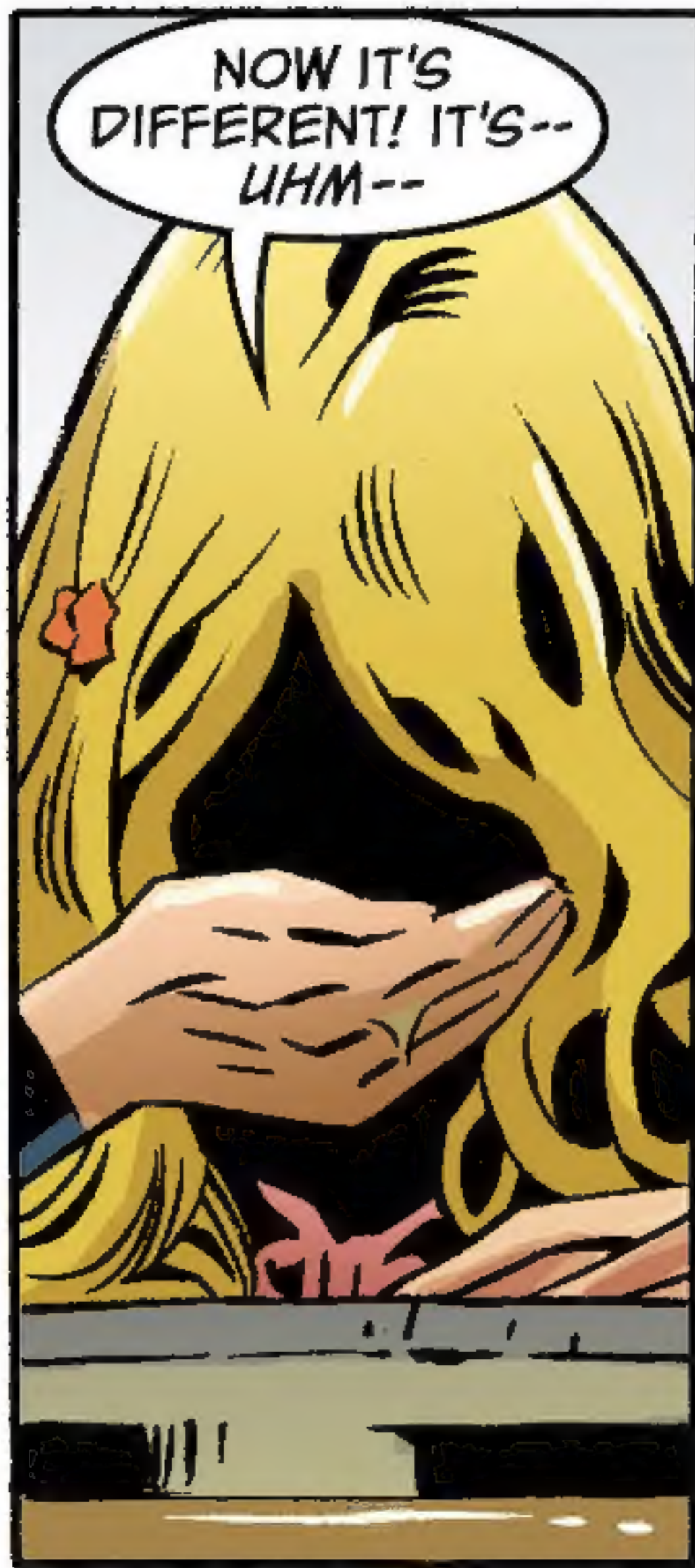
ONCE UPON A TIME A BRAVE BUT SPOILED LITTLE GIRL HAD A GREAT ADVENTURE.



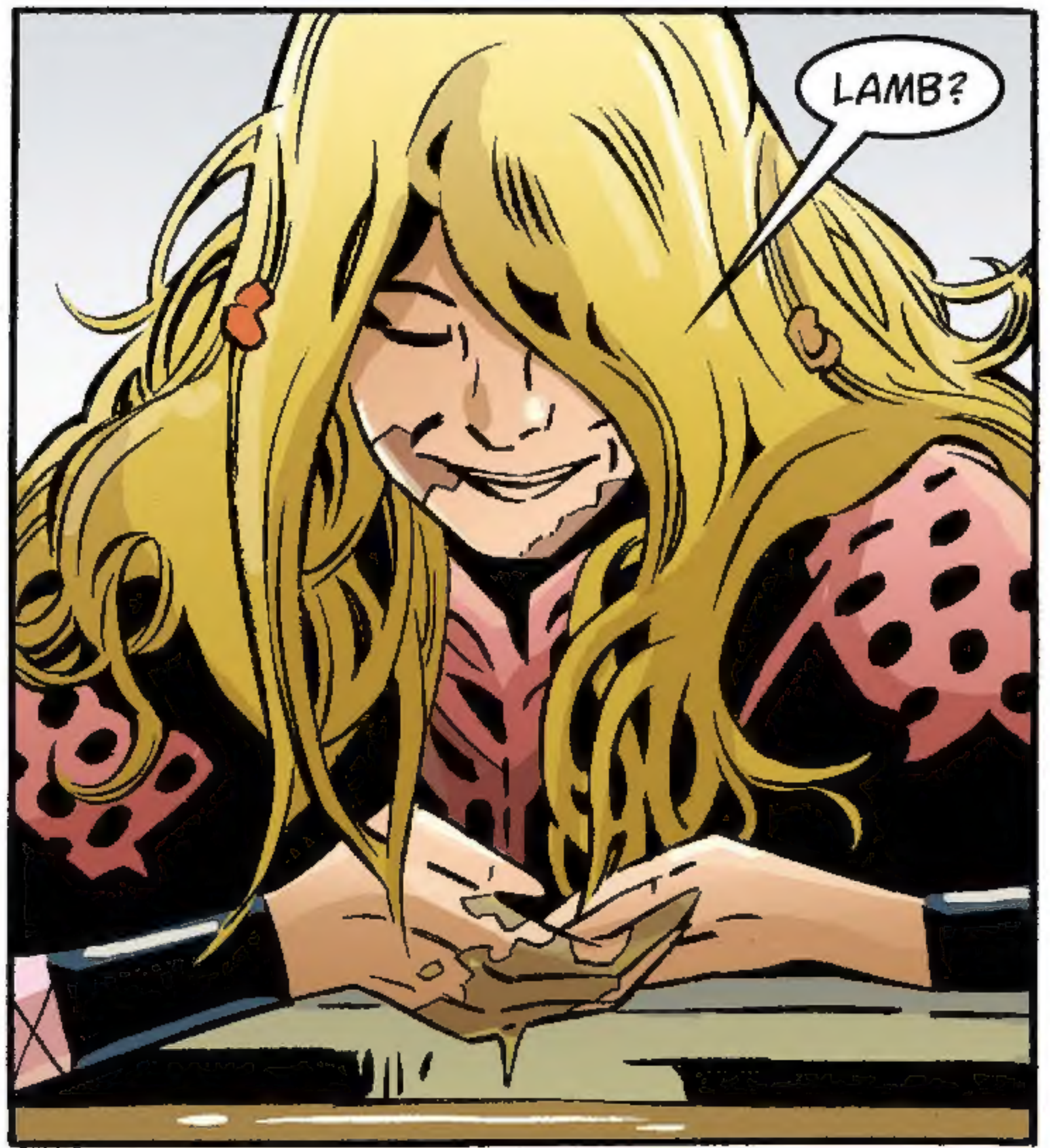




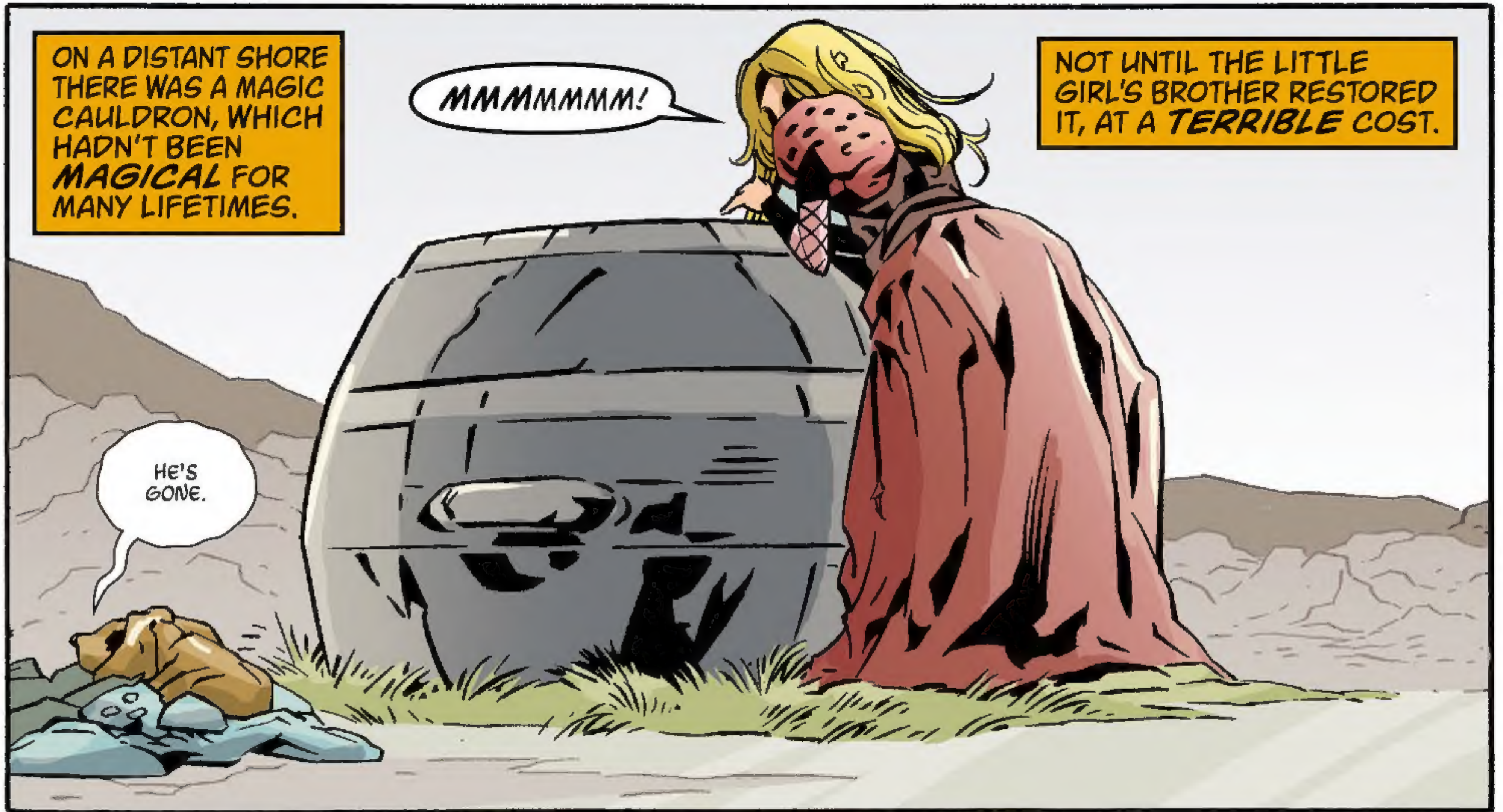
MORE!



NOW IT'S DIFFERENT! IT'S-- UHM--



LAMB?

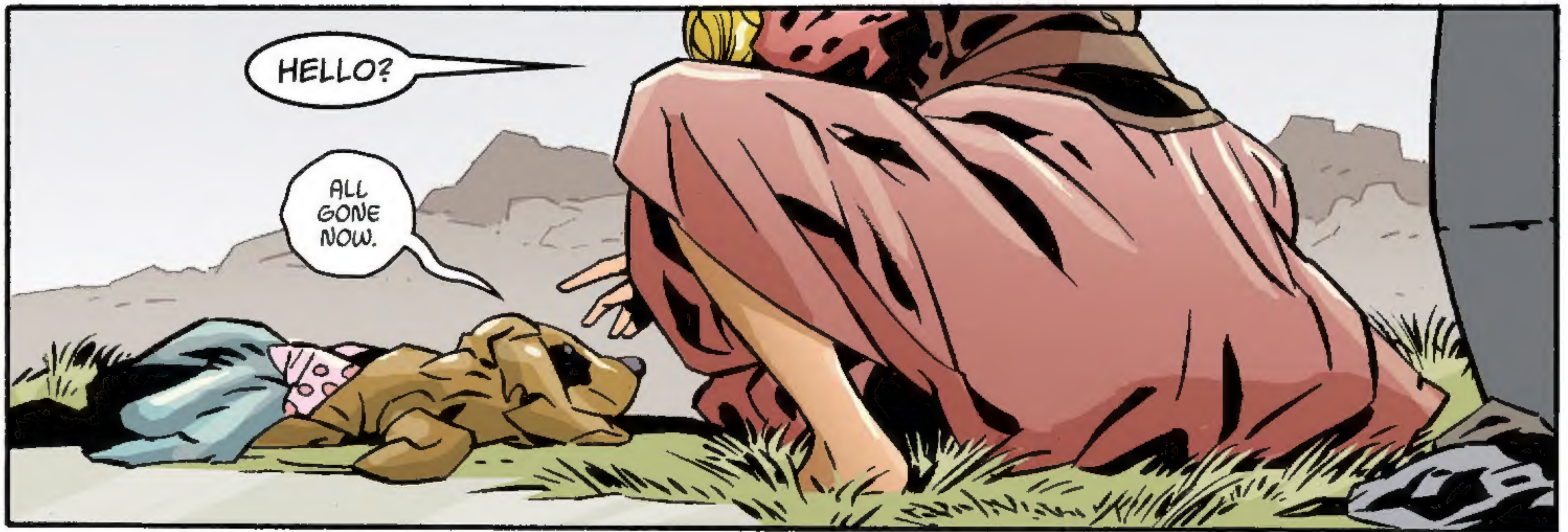


ON A DISTANT SHORE THERE WAS A MAGIC CAULDRON, WHICH HADN'T BEEN MAGICAL FOR MANY LIFETIMES.

MMMMMMM!

NOT UNTIL THE LITTLE GIRL'S BROTHER RESTORED IT, AT A TERRIBLE COST.

HE'S GONE.



HELLO?

ALL GONE NOW.



ALL GONE.



HE SPOKE!

AMAZING!

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY BROTHER?

A BOY ABOUT MY AGE?

HIS NAME IS DARIEN.

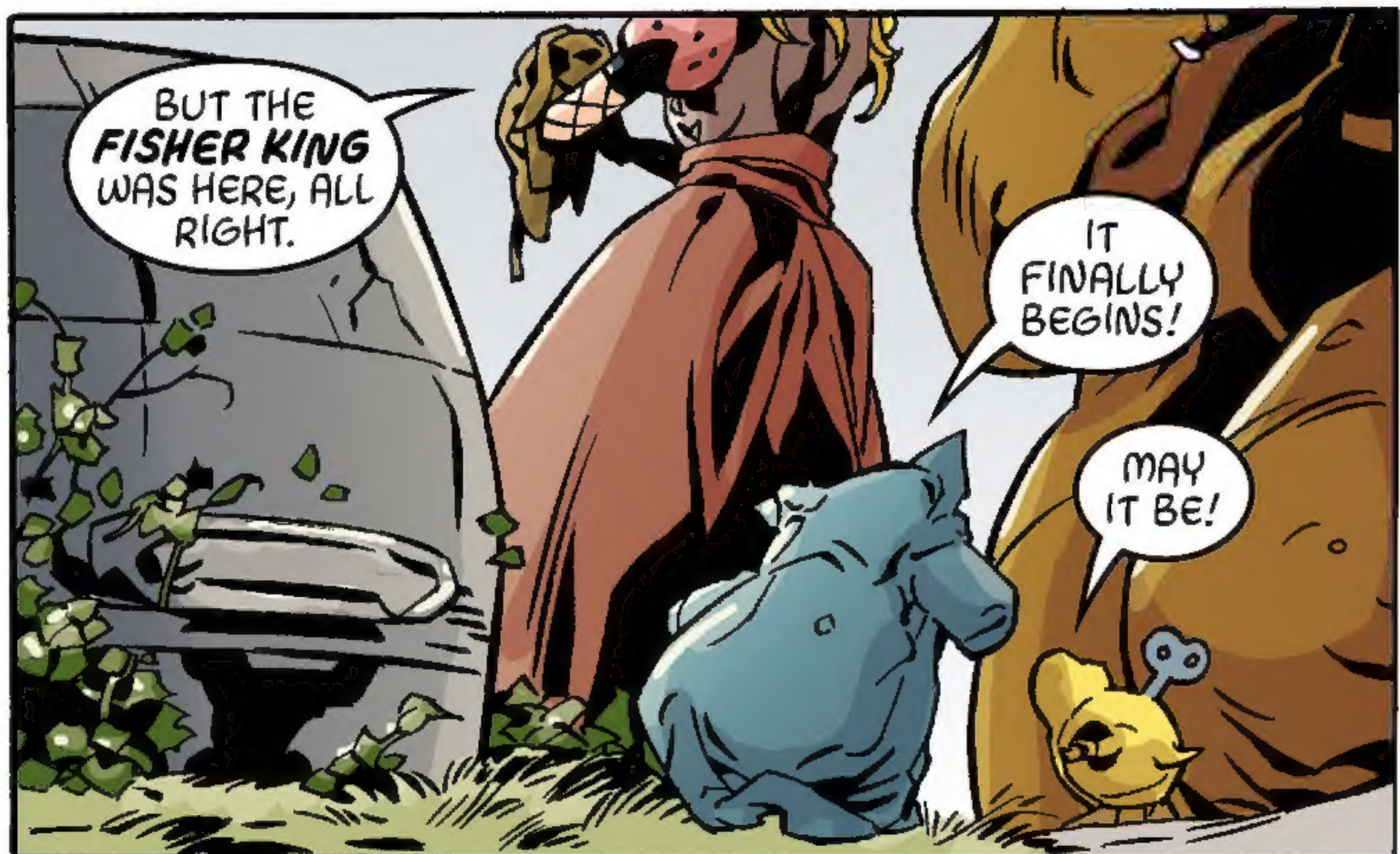
DARE!



REX WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO'D GIVEN UP **AGES AGO**. HE WAS LEFT OUT ON THE SHORE, BECAUSE THE LIFE HAD FADED OUT OF HIM.



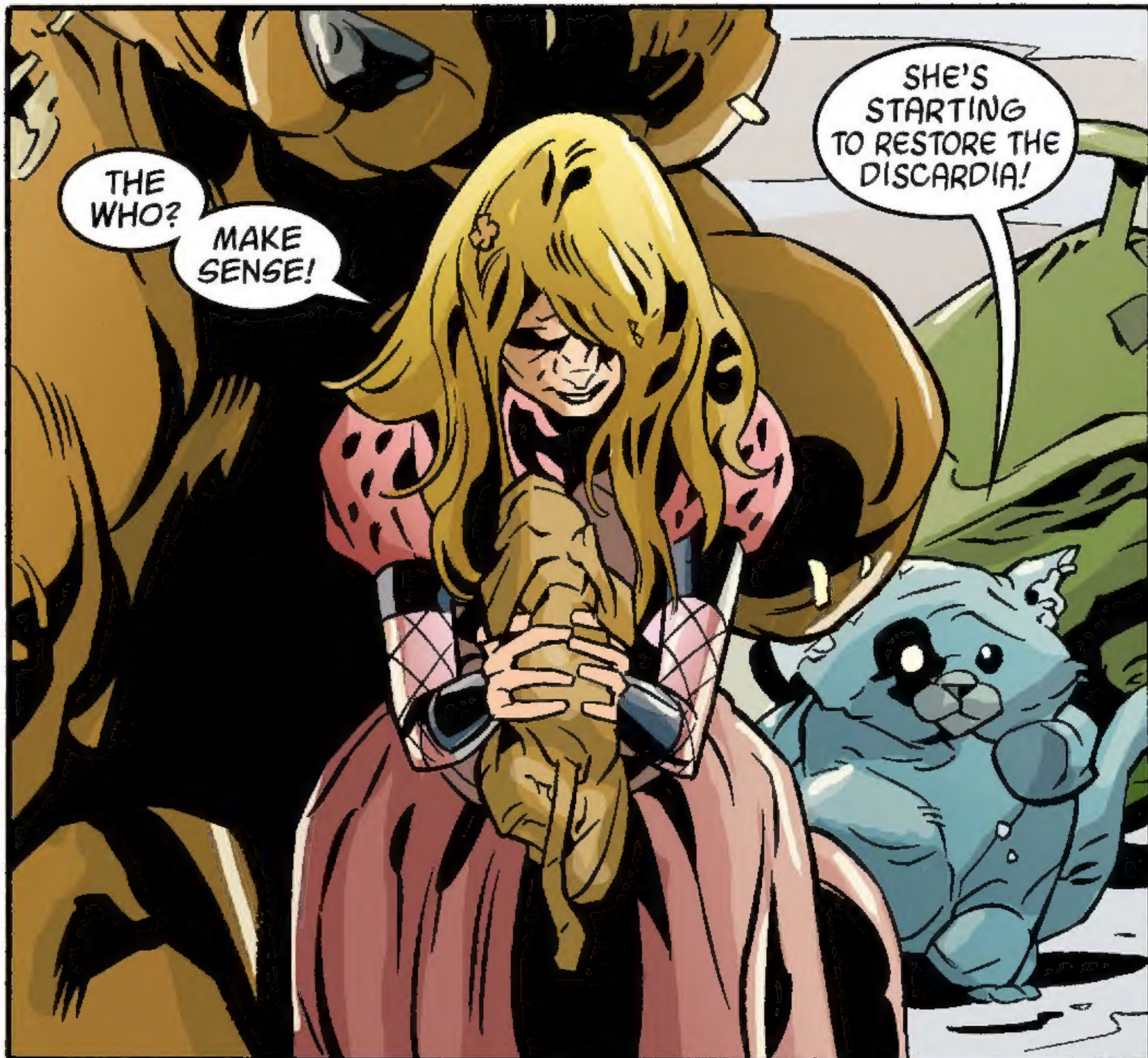
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS BOY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.



BUT THE **FISHER KING** WAS HERE, ALL RIGHT.

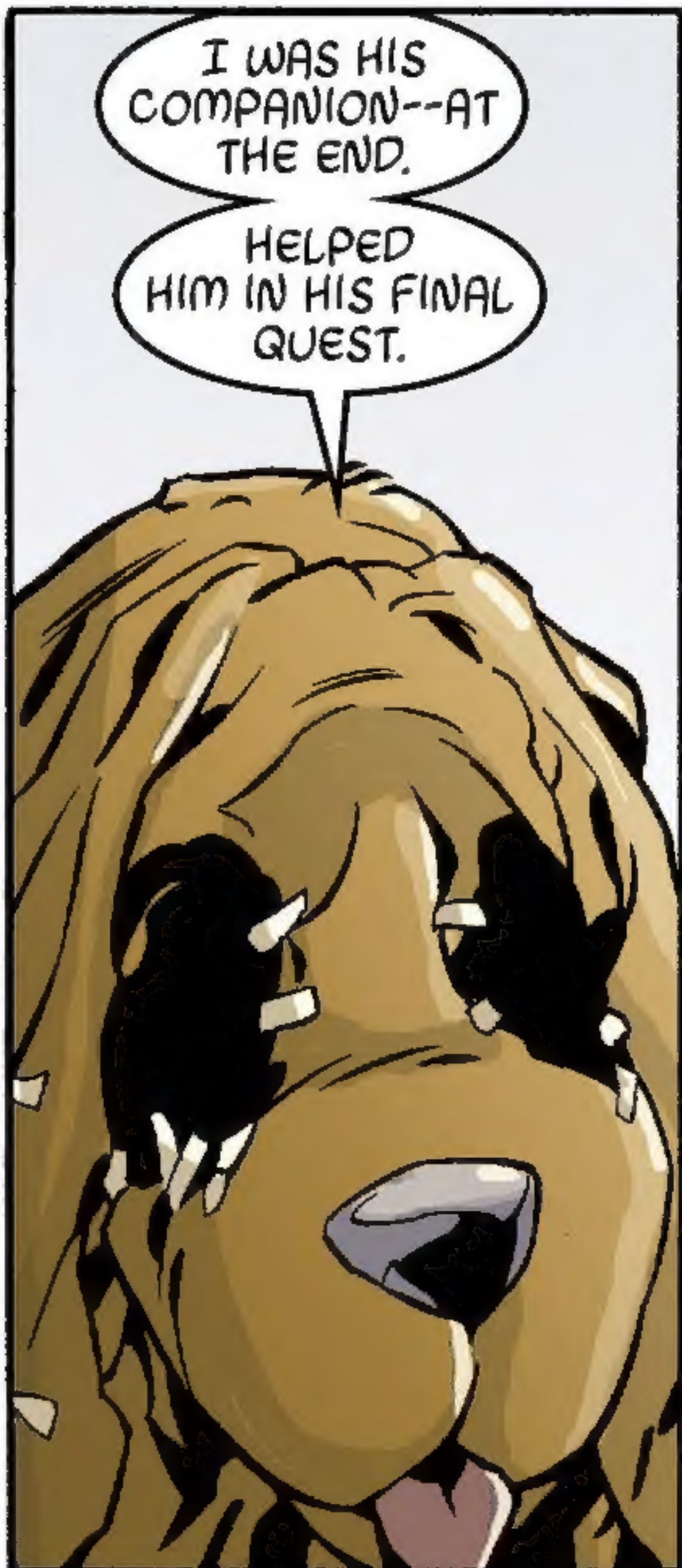
IT FINALLY BEGINS!

MAY IT BE!



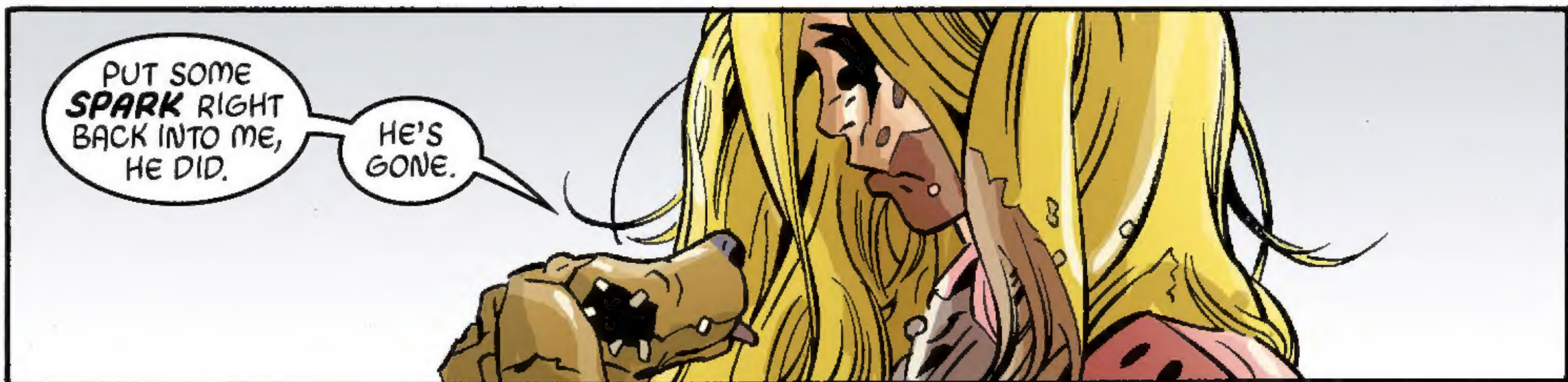
THE WHO?
MAKE SENSE!

SHE'S STARTING TO RESTORE THE DISCARDIA!



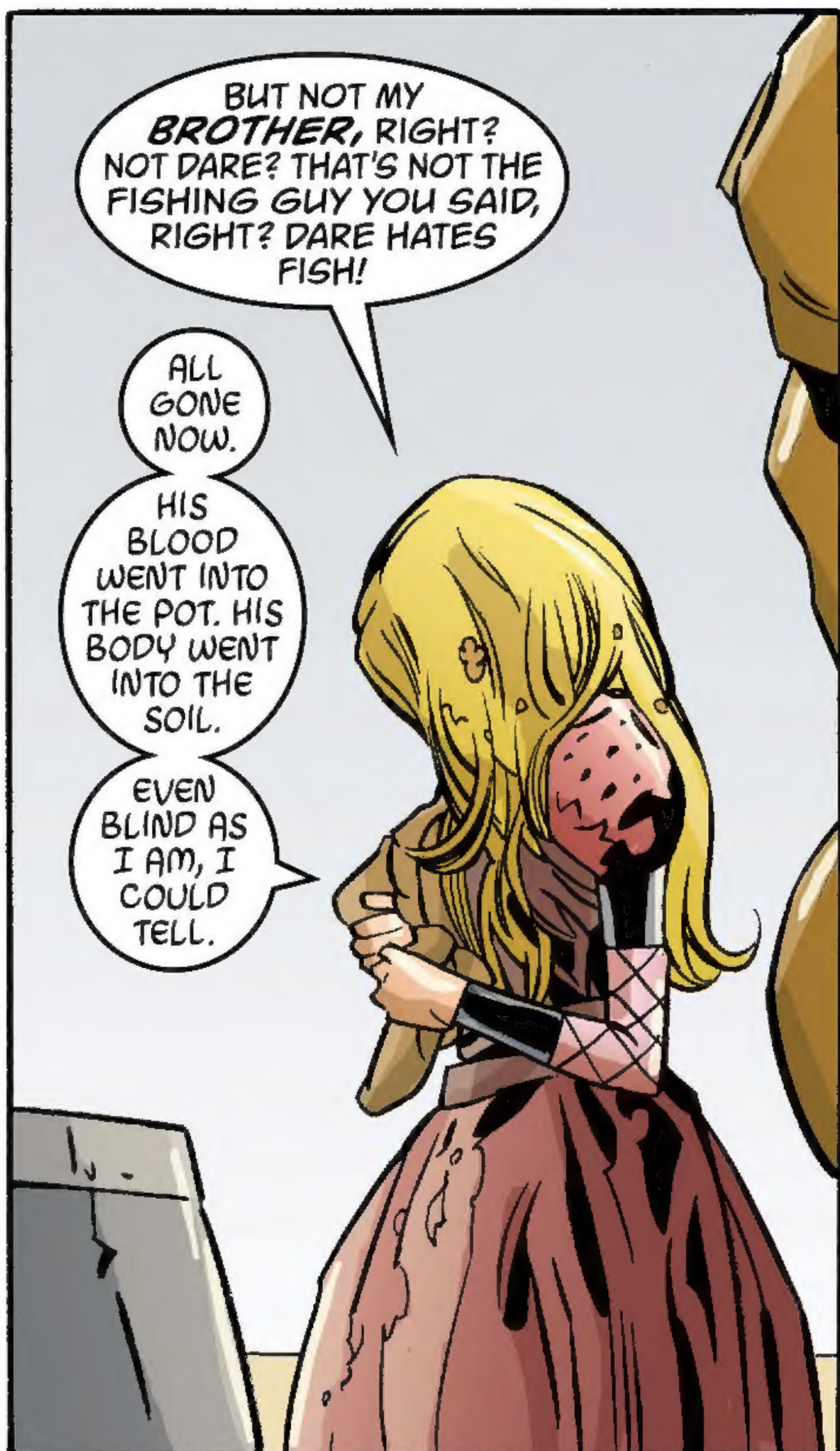
I WAS HIS COMPANION--AT THE END.

HELPED HIM IN HIS FINAL QUEST.



PUT SOME SPARK RIGHT BACK INTO ME, HE DID.

HE'S GONE.

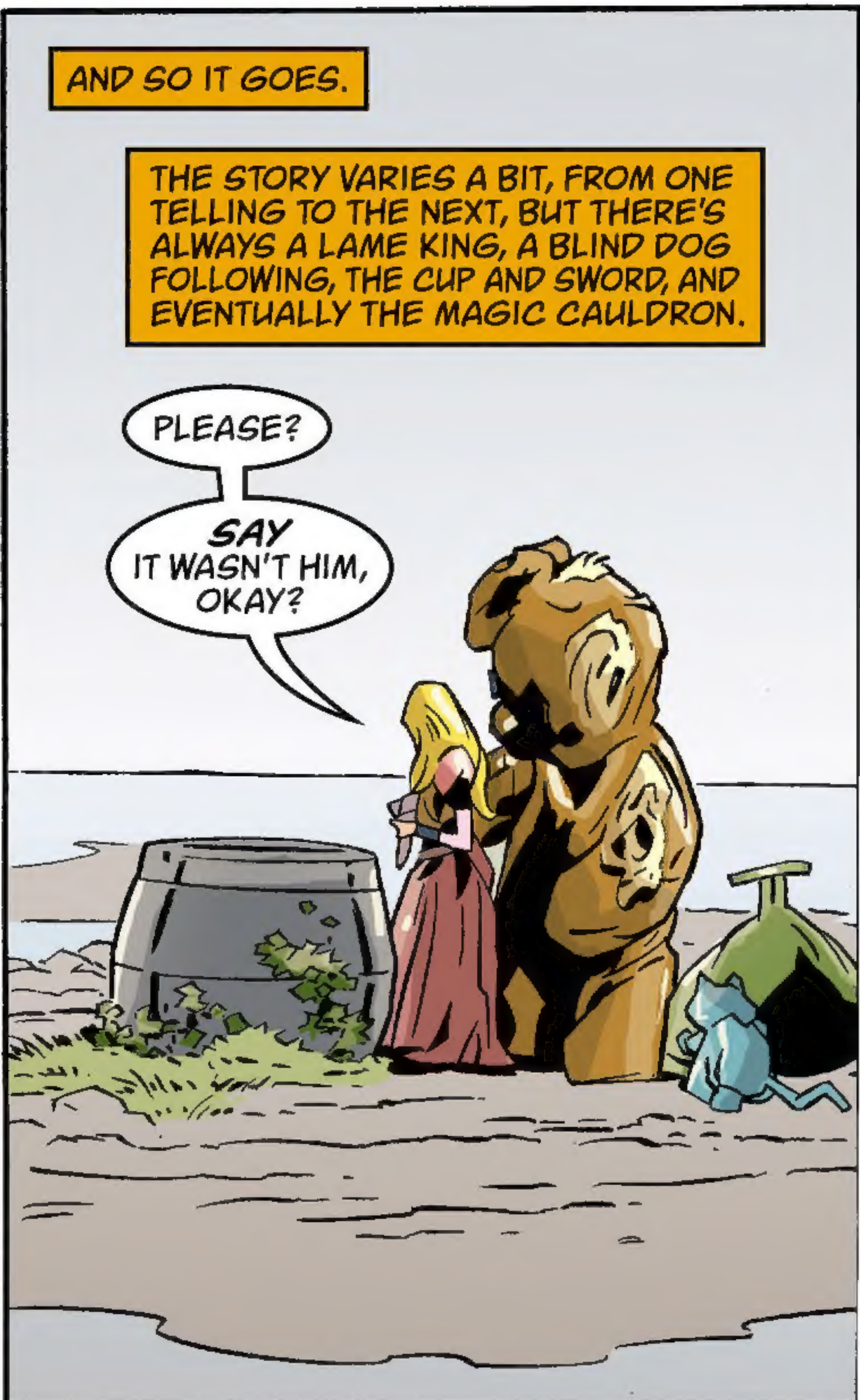


BUT NOT MY BROTHER, RIGHT? NOT DARE? THAT'S NOT THE FISHING GUY YOU SAID, RIGHT? DARE HATES FISH!

ALL GONE NOW.

HIS BLOOD WENT INTO THE POT. HIS BODY WENT INTO THE SOIL.

EVEN BLIND AS I AM, I COULD TELL.



AND SO IT GOES.

THE STORY VARIES A BIT, FROM ONE TELLING TO THE NEXT, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A LAME KING, A BLIND DOG FOLLOWING, THE CUP AND SWORD, AND EVENTUALLY THE MAGIC CAULDRON.

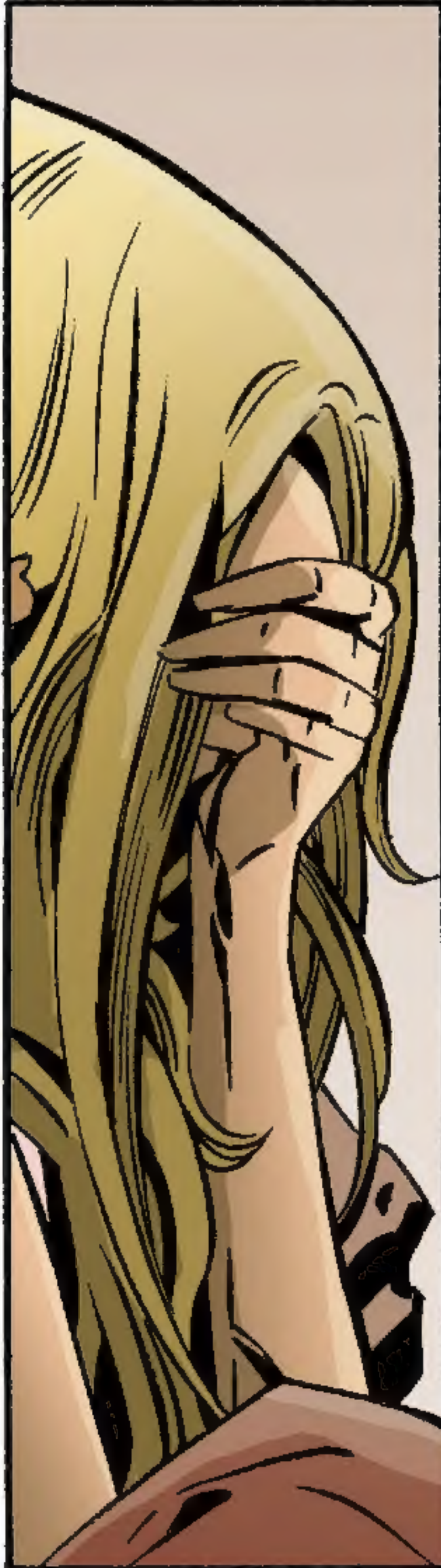
PLEASE?

SAY IT WASN'T HIM, OKAY?

THE OLDEST MAGIC ONLY *WORKED* WITH A LOT OF SPILLED BLOOD.



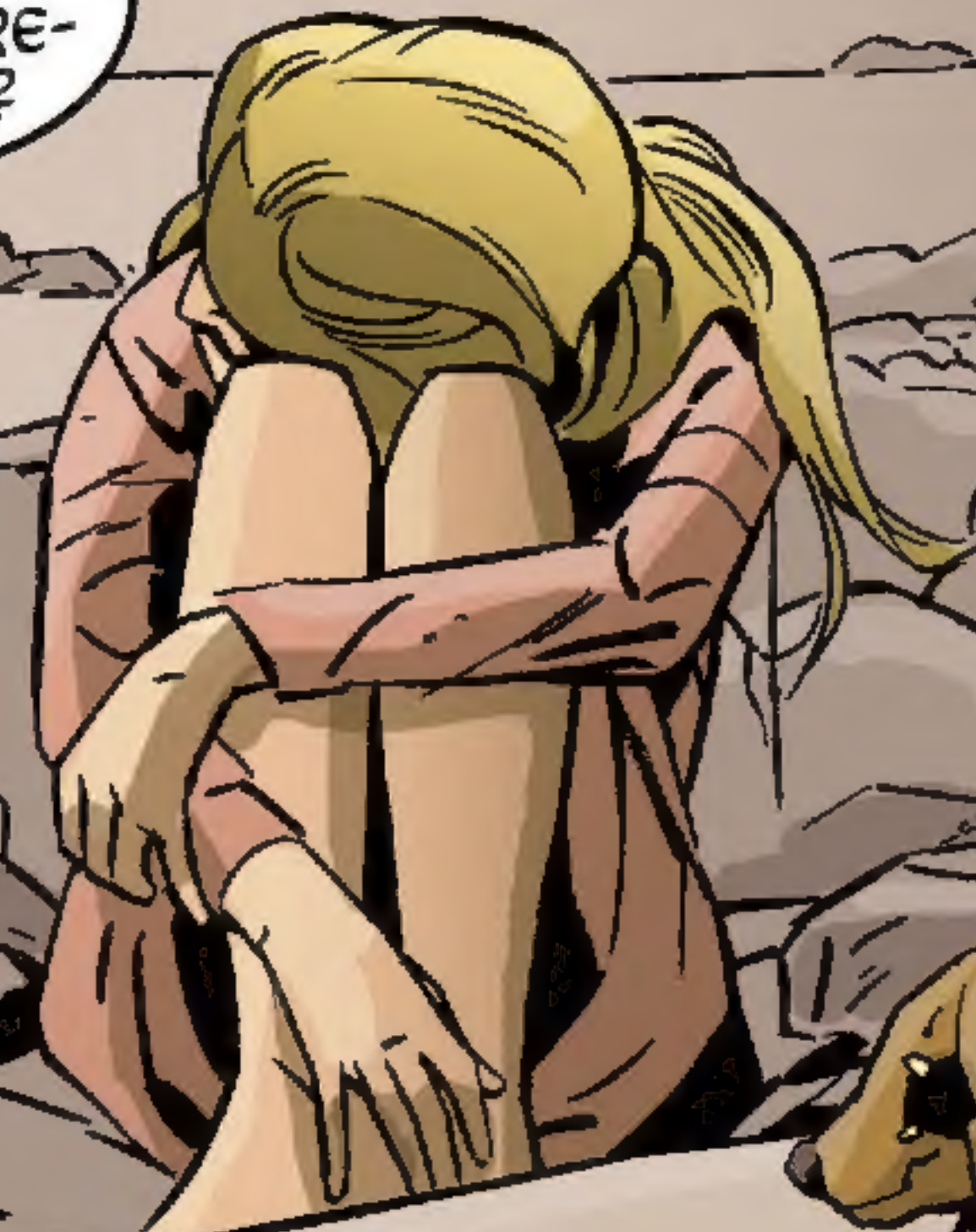
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



IT TURNED OUT THE BOY'S BLOOD WAS TRULY POTENT STUFF.

ALL THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SNOW WHITE AND HER WOLF WERE POWERFUL. TWO MAGIC BLOODLINES MIXED TO BECOME *MORE* THAN THEIR PARTS.

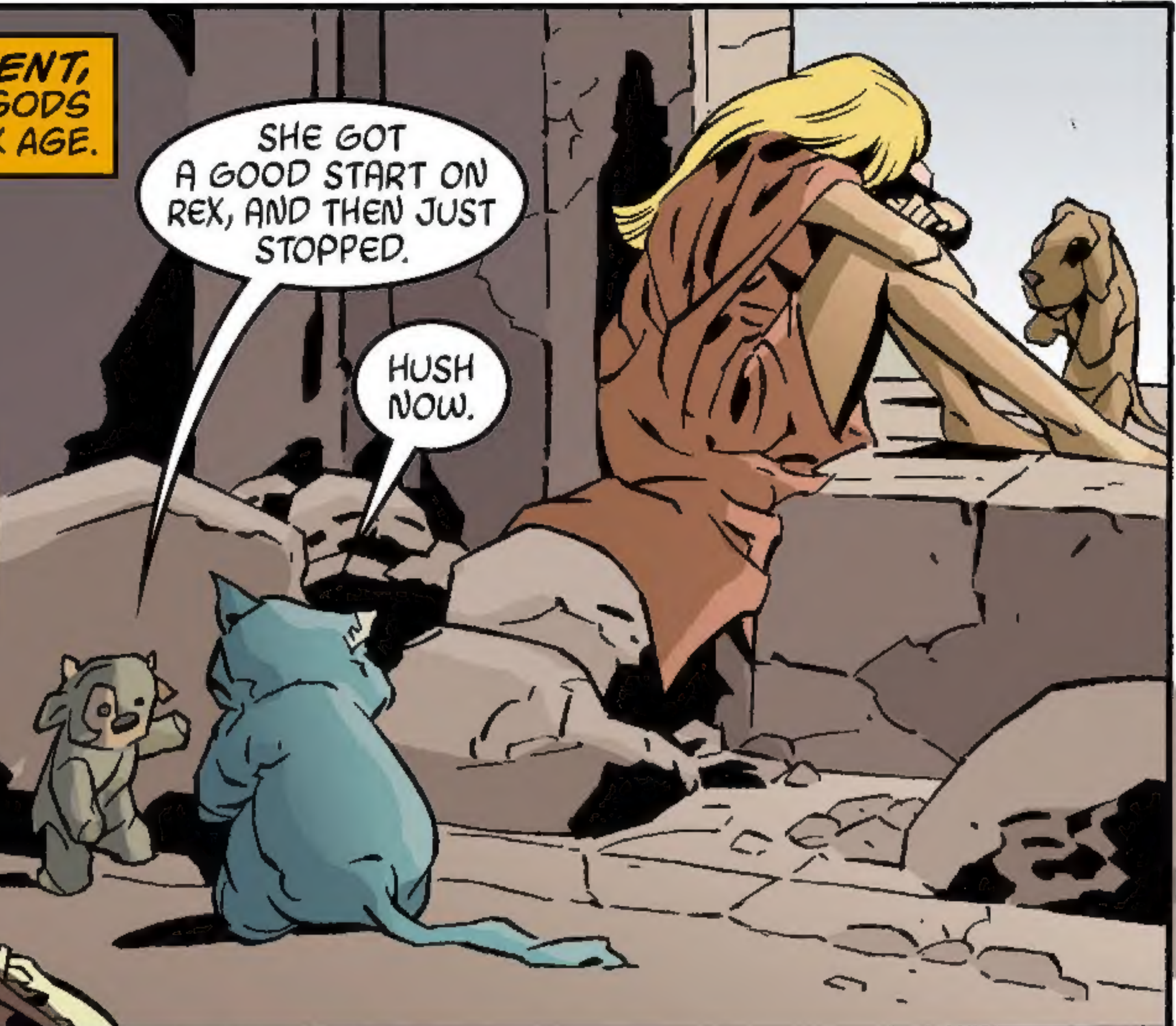
WHEN IS THE QUEEN GOING TO RESTORE US?



HAD THEY BEEN RAISED *DIFFERENT*, THEY COULD HAVE BECOME THE GODS AND MONSTERS OF A LONG AND DARK AGE.

SHE GOT A GOOD START ON REX, AND THEN JUST STOPPED.

HUSH NOW.

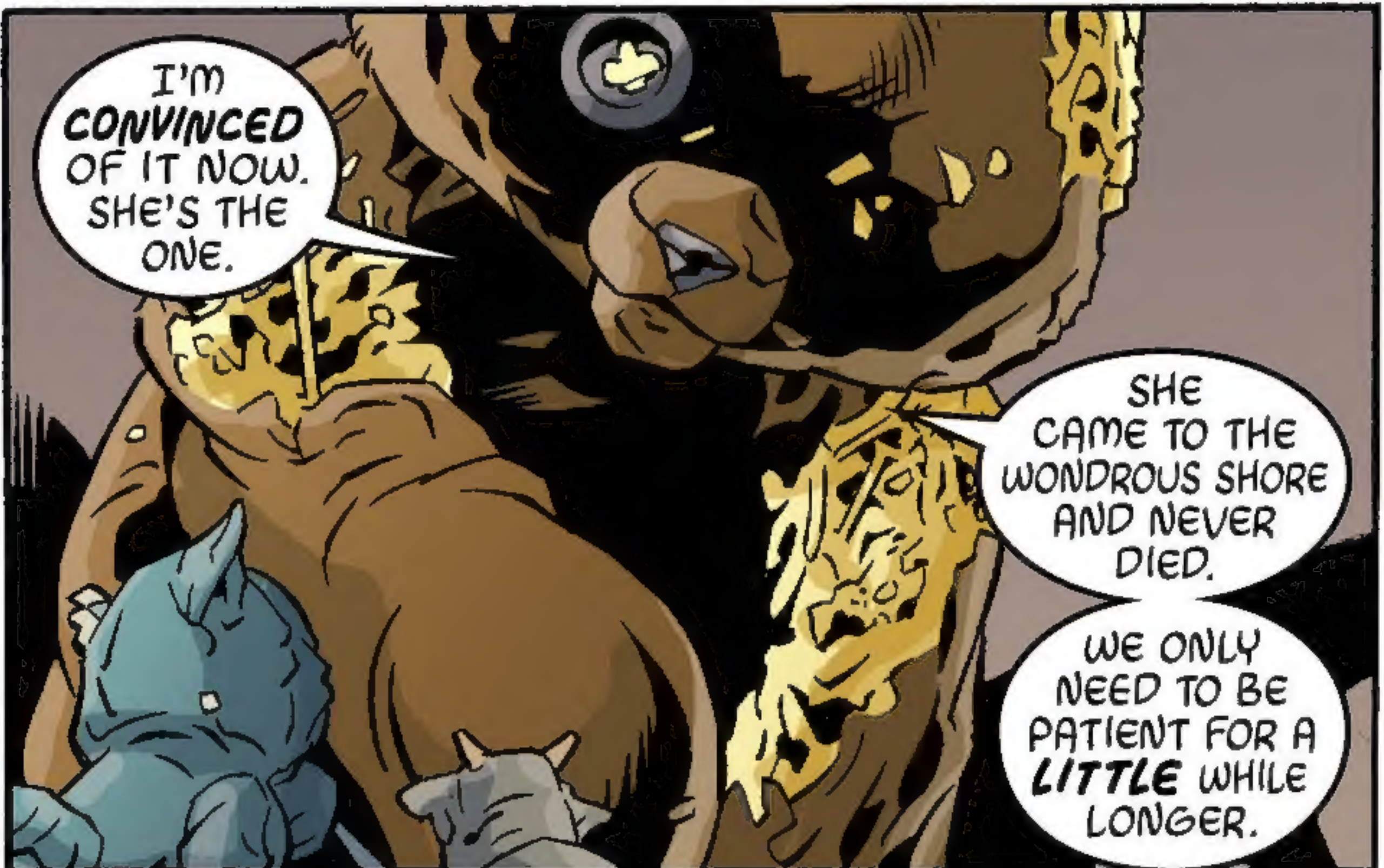


IT WILL CONTINUE IN HER TIME.

I'M CONVINCED OF IT NOW. SHE'S THE ONE.

SHE CAME TO THE WONDROUS SHORE AND NEVER DIED.

WE ONLY NEED TO BE PATIENT FOR A *LITTLE* WHILE LONGER.



FUNNY THING ABOUT DEATH AND KINSHIP.

IT'S A NEW DISH EVERY DAY, YOUR MAJESTY.



IT NEVER RUNS OUT. AND ALWAYS MAGICALLY FRESH AND HOT.

NO NEED TO BURN ANY MORE TOYS, NO-SIREE.



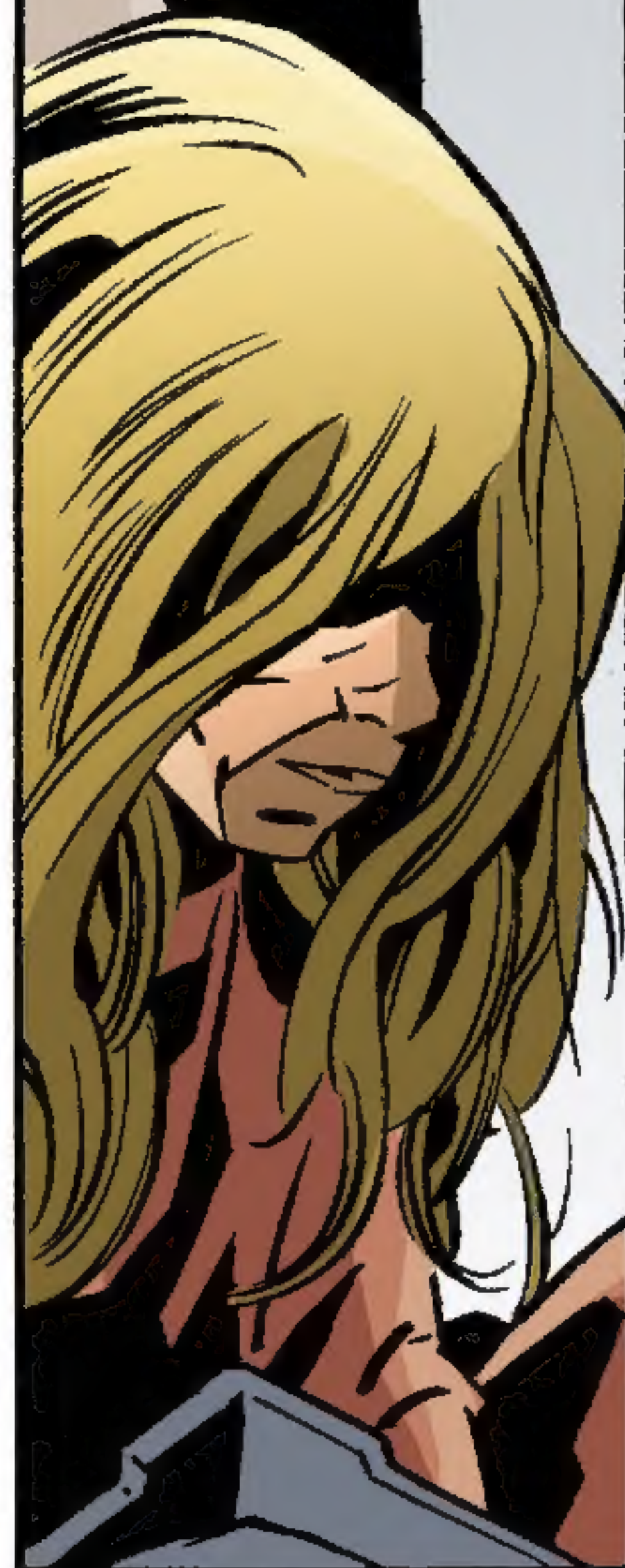
THERESE NEVER MUCH LIKED DARIEN IN LIFE, BUT MOURNED HIM A GOOD LONG TIME AFTER HE PASSED.

CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS TODAY, IN A LOVELY GRAVY.

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PICK OUT THE PEAS FOR YOU?



NO THANKS. IT'S FINE AS IT IS.



LATER AND LATER STILL...

IF I'D WAITED JUST A DAY OR TWO LONGER, MR. MOUNT-BATTEN WOULDN'T HAVE...



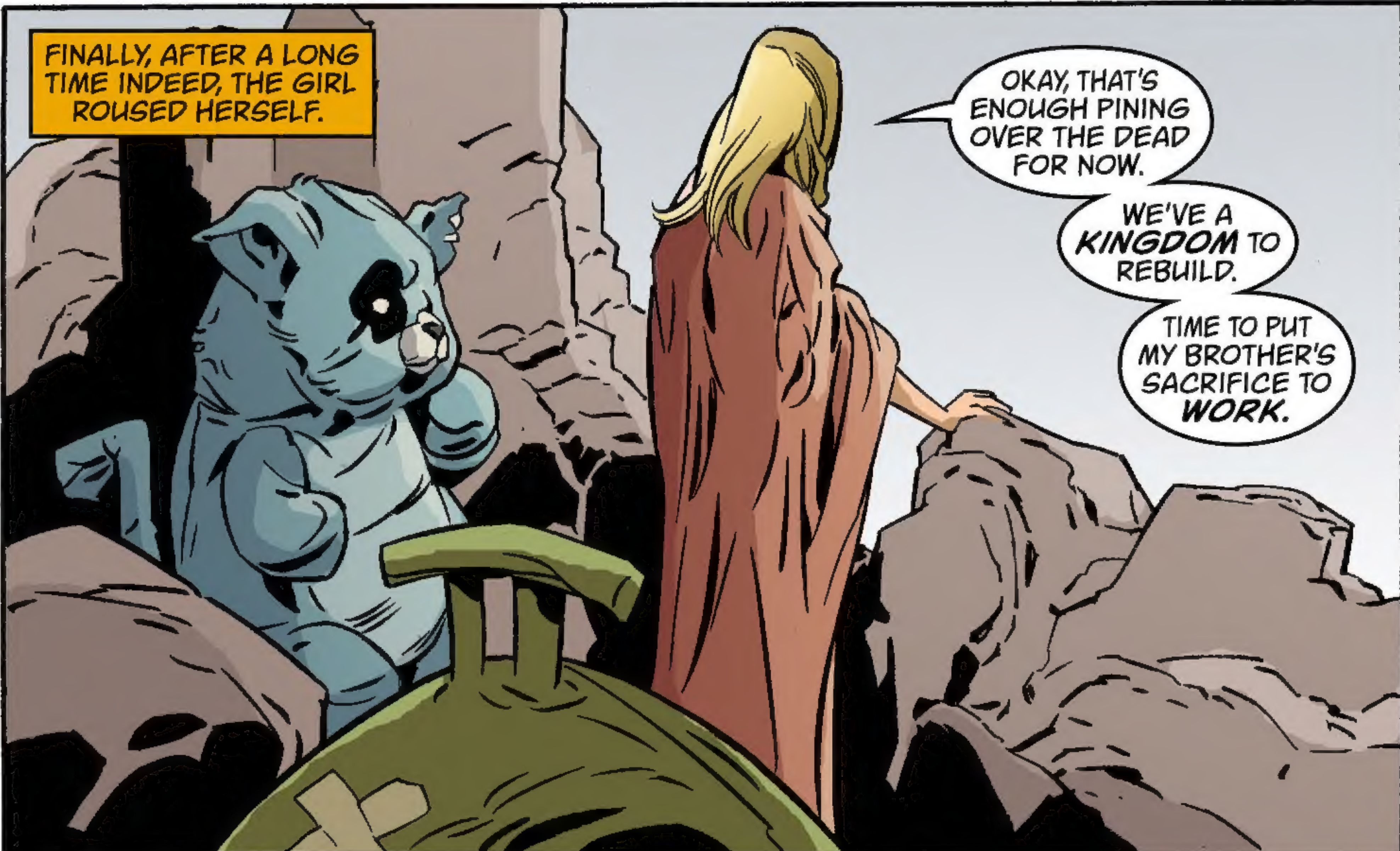
HE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.

DIDN'T HAVE TO EAT MUCH OF HIM, THOUGH.

GOT MOST OF HIM INTO HIS GRAVE, SO THAT'S SOMETHING, AT LEAST.



FINALLY, AFTER A LONG TIME INDEED, THE GIRL ROUSED HERSELF.



OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH PINING OVER THE DEAD FOR NOW.

WE'VE A KINGDOM TO REBUILD.

TIME TO PUT MY BROTHER'S SACRIFICE TO WORK.

PLEASE GO AND FIND MR. STEAMPUDDE. TELL HIM IT'S TIME TO GROW LARGE AGAIN AND **READY** HIMSELF FOR AN OCEAN VOYAGE.

GET READY FOR A **LOT** OF THEM, IN FACT.

HE'S ABOUT TO BE A VERY BUSY BOAT.

THAT WON'T **WORK**, YOUR MAJESTY. THE GREAT PRETEND ISN'T A BOTTOMLESS WELL OF POWER. WE HAVE TO HUSBAND IT CAREFULLY.

STEAMPUDDE COULD ONLY TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE WONDROUS SHORE WHEN WE **NEEDED** A NEW KING OR QUEEN.

ONLY THEN.

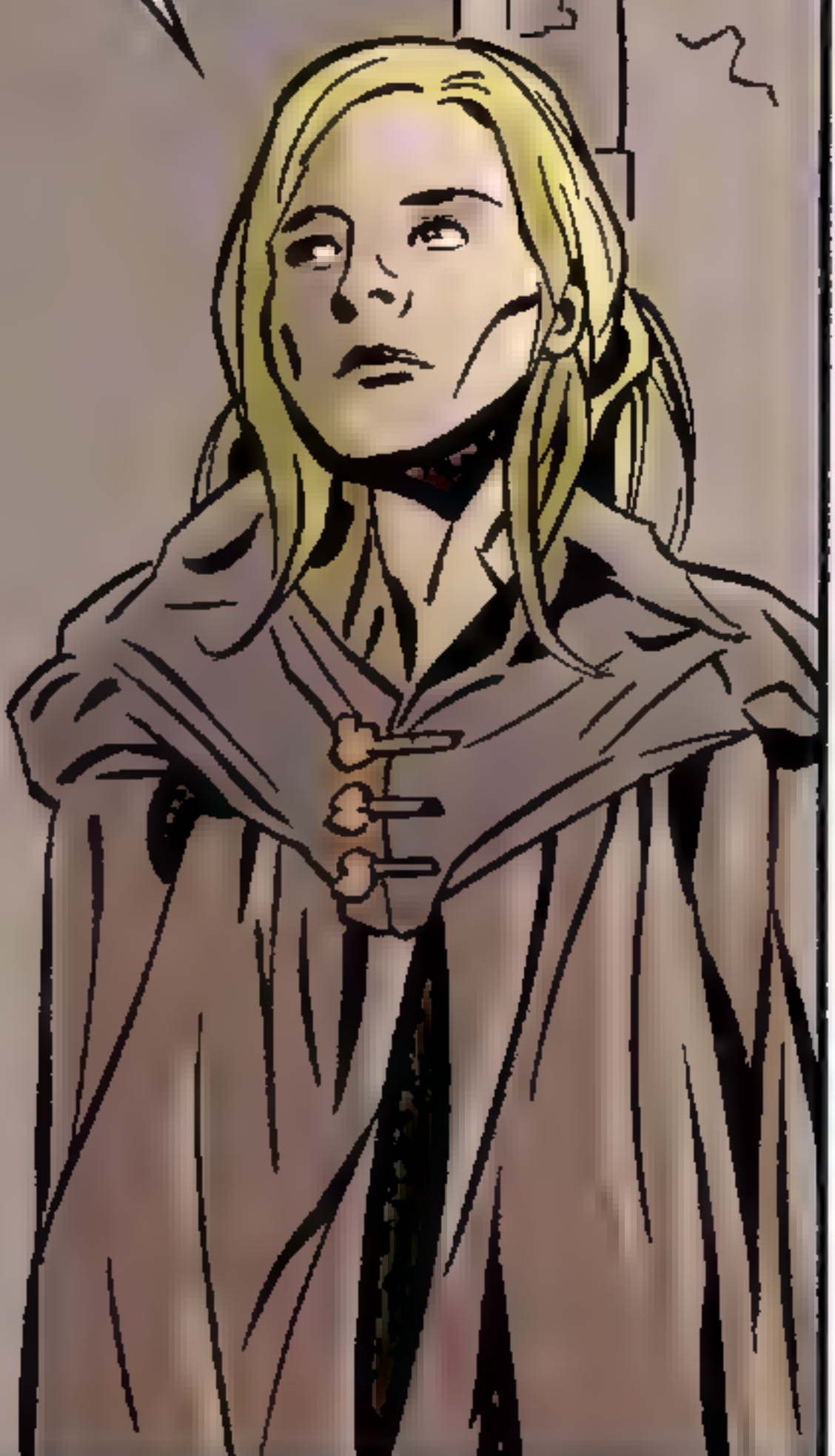
WE'RE BOUND BY UNBREAKABLE RULES AND TRADITIONS.

THAT WAS BEFORE.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THINGS ARE **DIFFERENT** NOW.

I'M THE **QUEEN** OF TOYLAND. THE LAND AND THE QUEEN ARE ONE. I **COMMAND** THE MANY POWERS OF THE GREAT PRETEND.

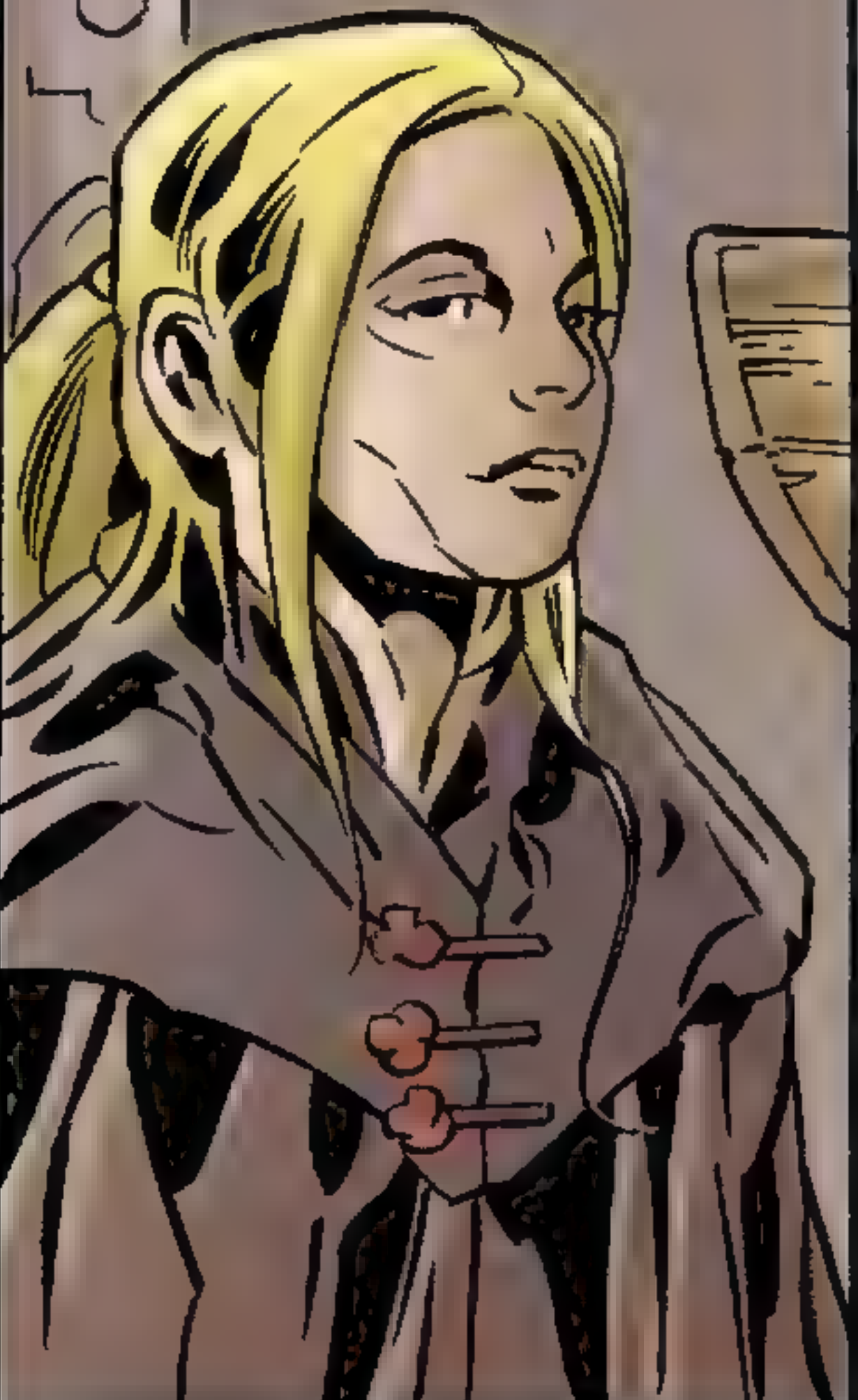
I DID FROM THE VERY BEGINNING-- FROM MY FIRST **STEP** ONTO THESE SHORES--BUT DIDN'T KNOW IT UNTIL RECENTLY.



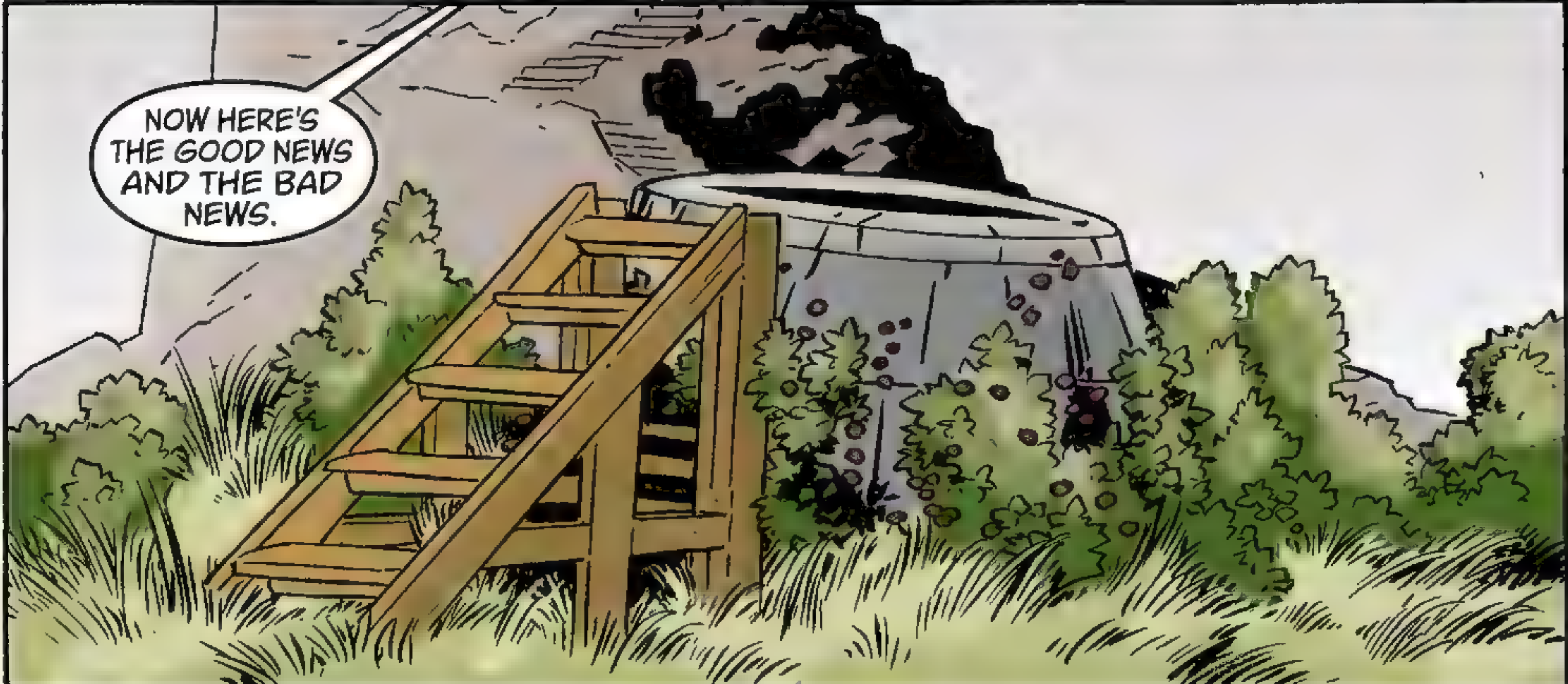
TOO MUCH OF A SPOILED BRAT TO REALIZE IT, I SUPPOSE.



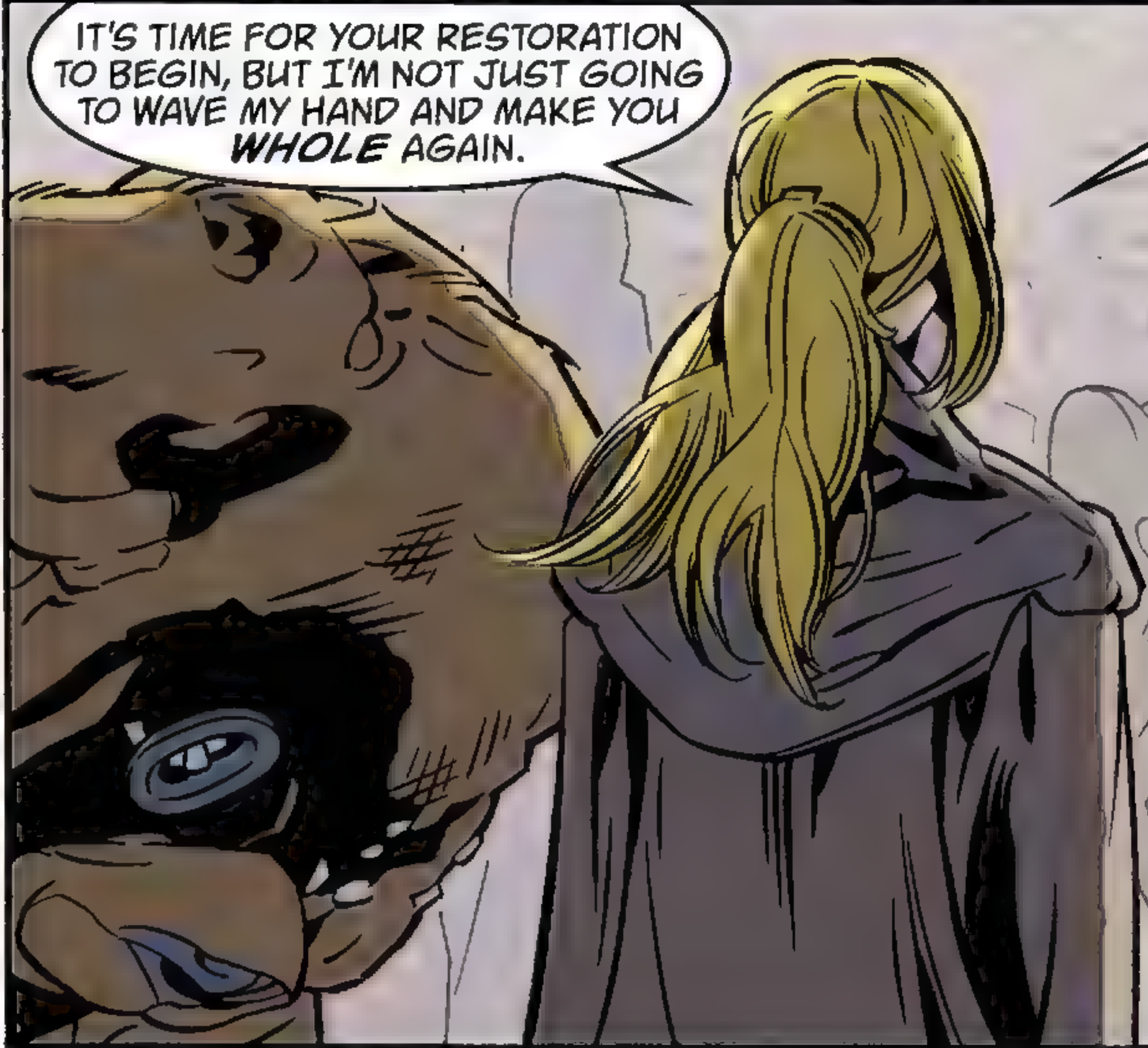
IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE HOW WELL THOSE POWERS **DANCE** ON THE END OF MY STRINGS.



NOW HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS.

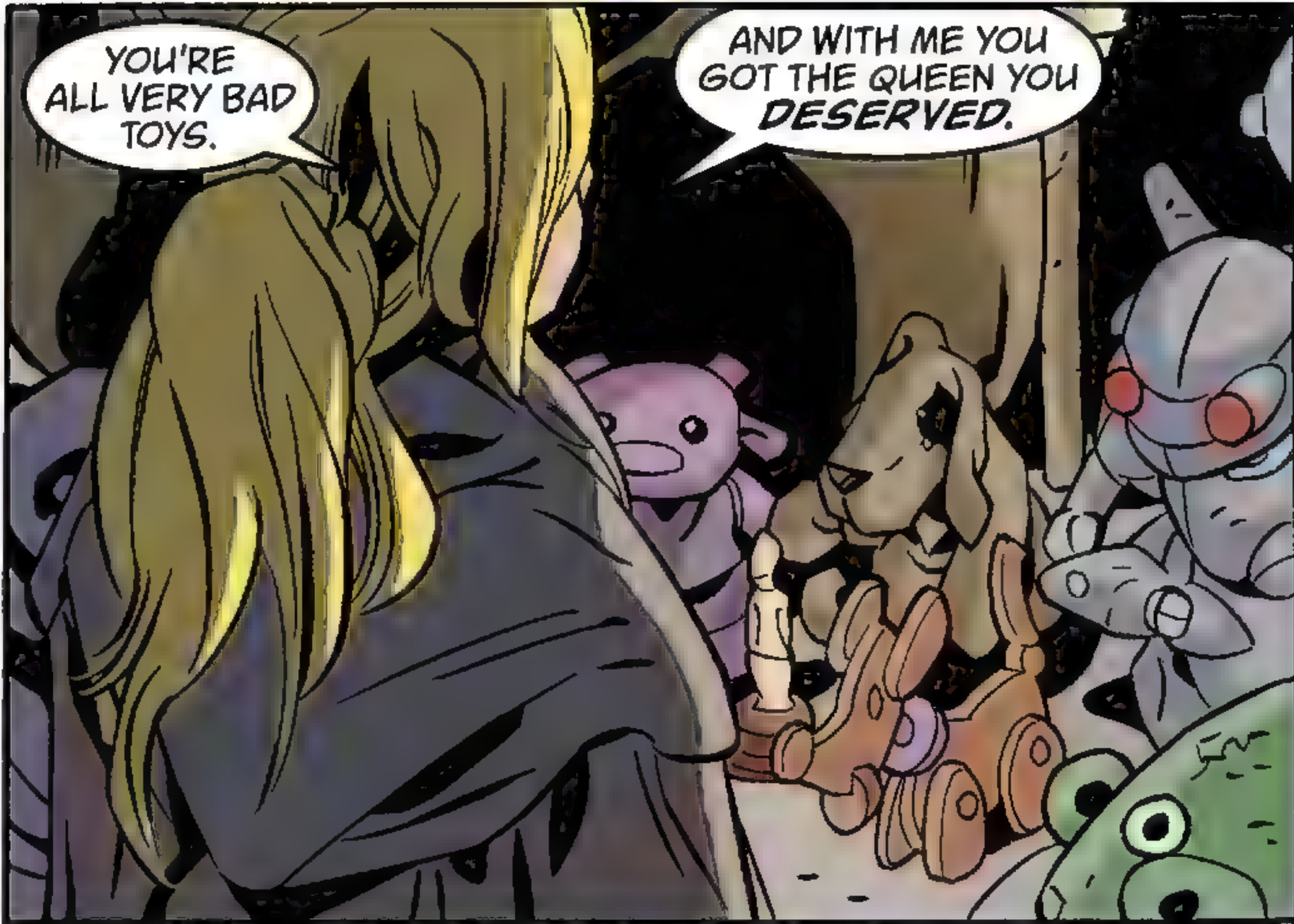


IT'S TIME FOR YOUR RESTORATION TO BEGIN, BUT I'M NOT JUST GOING TO WAVE MY HAND AND MAKE YOU **WHOLE** AGAIN.



I'M NOT SURE I COULD, BUT EVEN IF I COULD, I WOULDN'T.



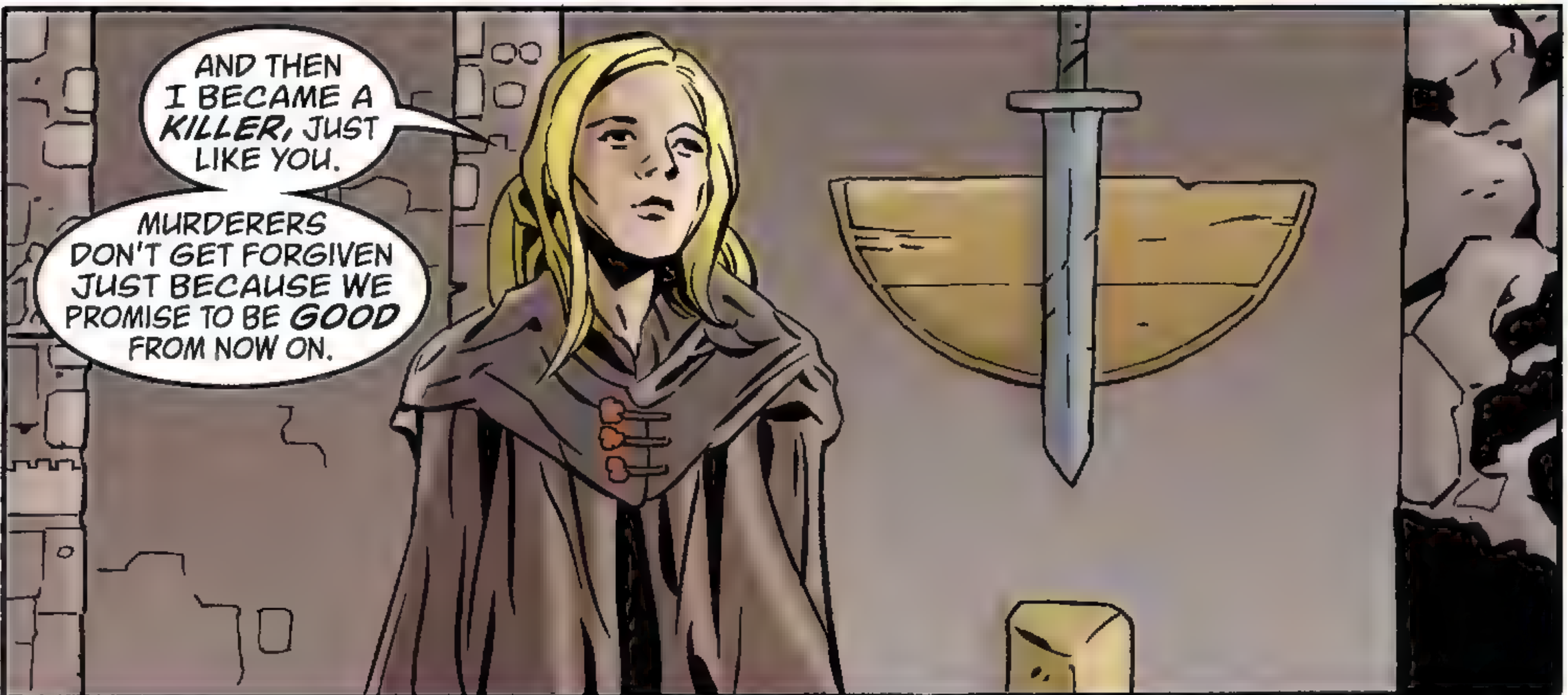


YOU'RE ALL VERY BAD TOYS.

AND WITH ME YOU GOT THE QUEEN YOU DESERVED.

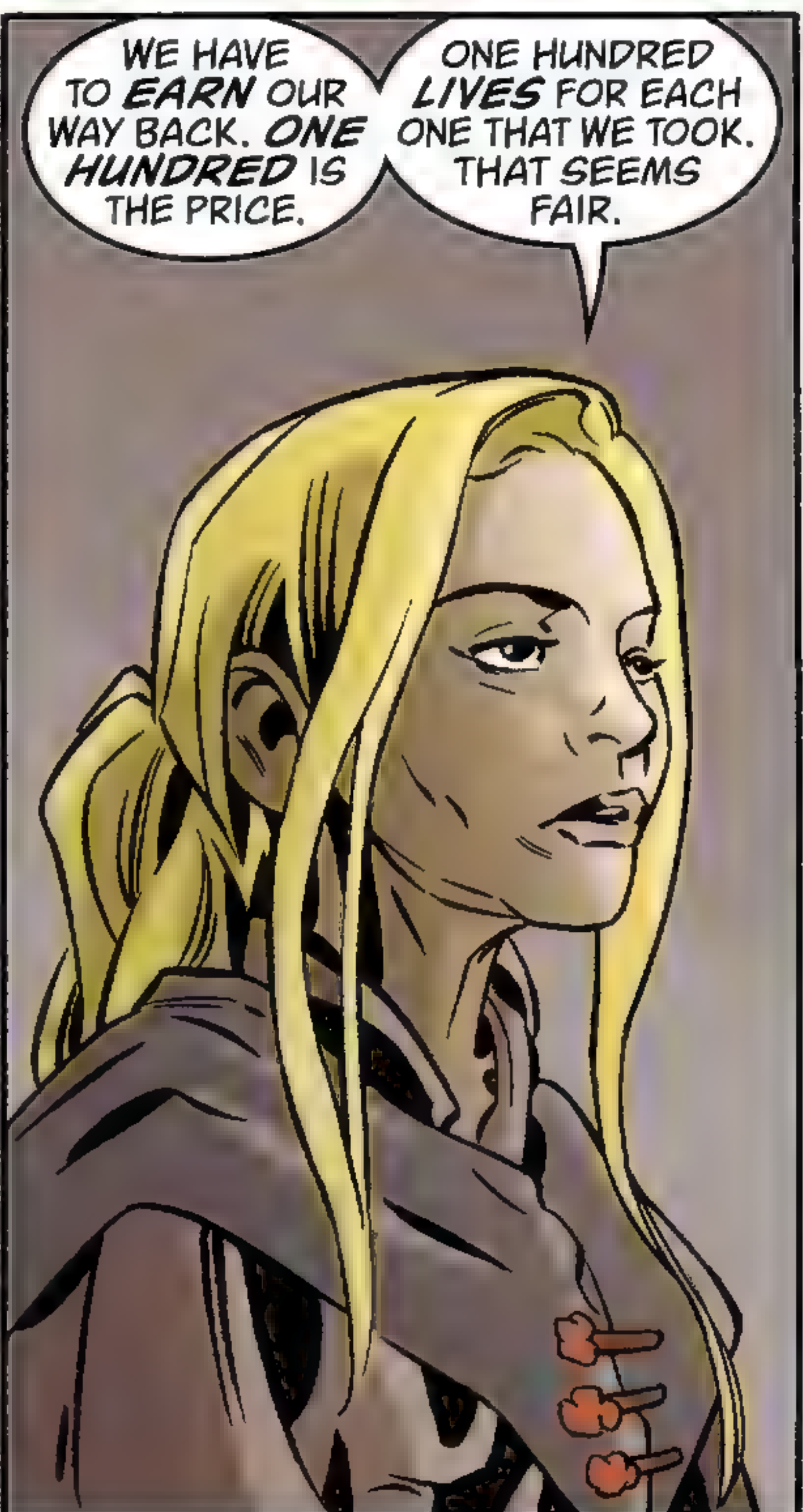


I WAS VAIN AND SPOILED AND BASICALLY WICKED.



AND THEN I BECAME A KILLER, JUST LIKE YOU.

MURDERERS DON'T GET FORGIVEN JUST BECAUSE WE PROMISE TO BE GOOD FROM NOW ON.



WE HAVE TO EARN OUR WAY BACK. ONE HUNDRED IS THE PRICE.

ONE HUNDRED LIVES FOR EACH ONE THAT WE TOOK. THAT SEEMS FAIR.



THAT'S HOW WE GET WHOLE AGAIN AND THAT'S OUR WORK, FROM NOW UNTIL AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

MAJESTY.

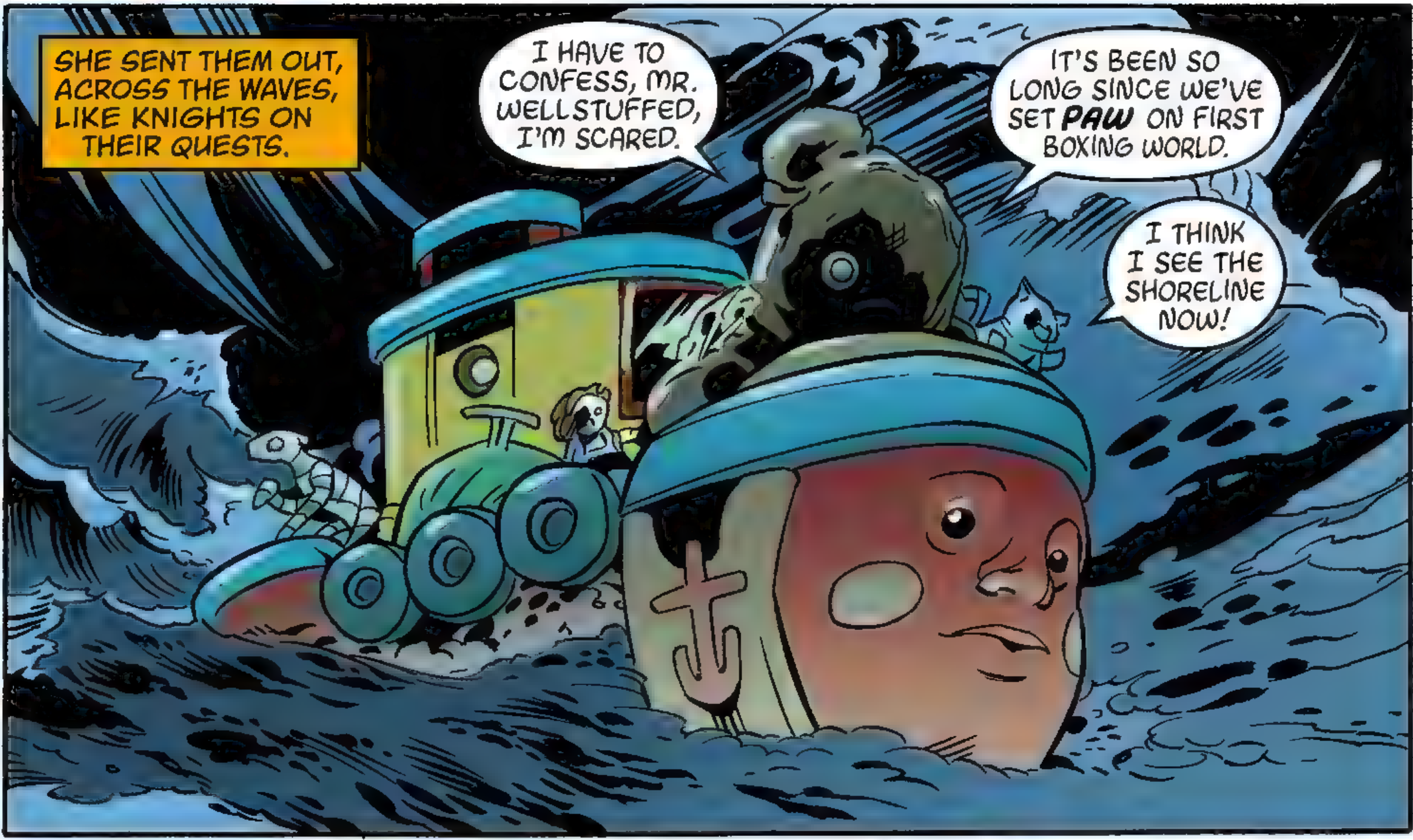
QUEEN OF THE GREAT RESTORATION, AT LONG LAST.

SHE SENT THEM OUT, ACROSS THE WAVES, LIKE KNIGHTS ON THEIR QUESTS.

I HAVE TO CONFESS, MR. WELLSTUFFED, I'M SCARED.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SET PAW ON FIRST BOXING WORLD.

I THINK I SEE THE SHORELINE NOW!



AND THAT'S HOW TIMMY BROOKS DIDN'T DROWN IN HIS POOL THAT DAY.

NOT ON OUR WATCH, KIDDO!



I THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY, "OUT WITH THE BAD AIR, IN WITH THE GOOD AIR" WHEN YOU DO THAT, OR IT DOESN'T WORK.



TIMMY!

WE'LL COUNT THIS ONE AS YOUR SAVE AND I'LL TAKE THE NEXT ONE.



THAT'S HOW BABY MARJORY TURPIN DIDN'T CHOKE ON THE BUILDING BLOCK.

SQUEEZE HER AGAIN!
POP THAT SUCKER LOOSE!

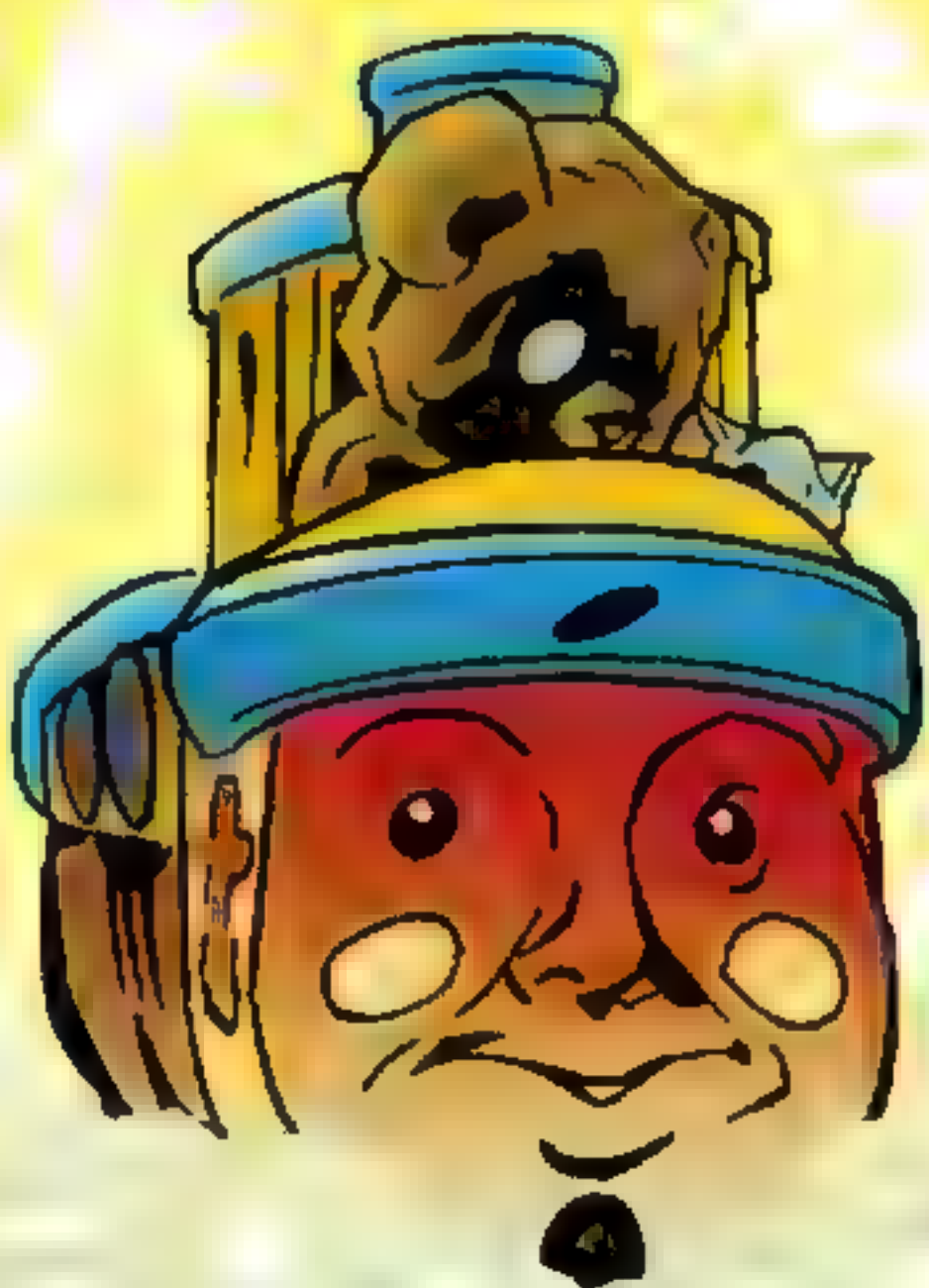


HUZZAH!



BACK AND FORTH THEY WENT, RETURNING OFTEN OVER THE YEARS TO REPORT THEIR SUCCESSES TO THE QUEEN, BEFORE BEING SENT OUT AGAIN.

LOOK AT THAT.



MY ARM IS NEARLY BRAND NEW AGAIN.

YOU'RE WELL ON YOUR WAY TO LOOKING FRESH FROM THE BOX AGAIN, MR. IVES.

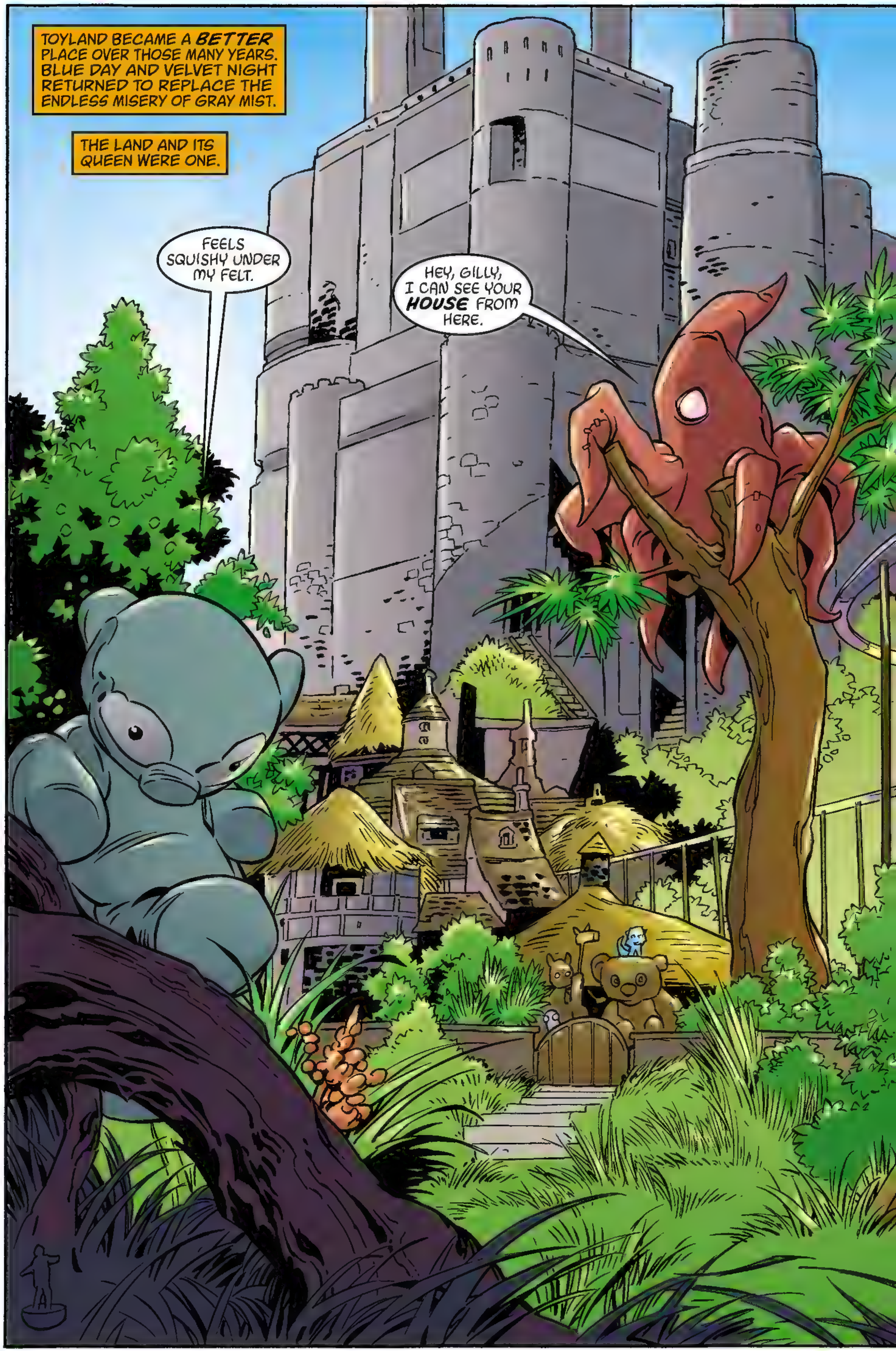


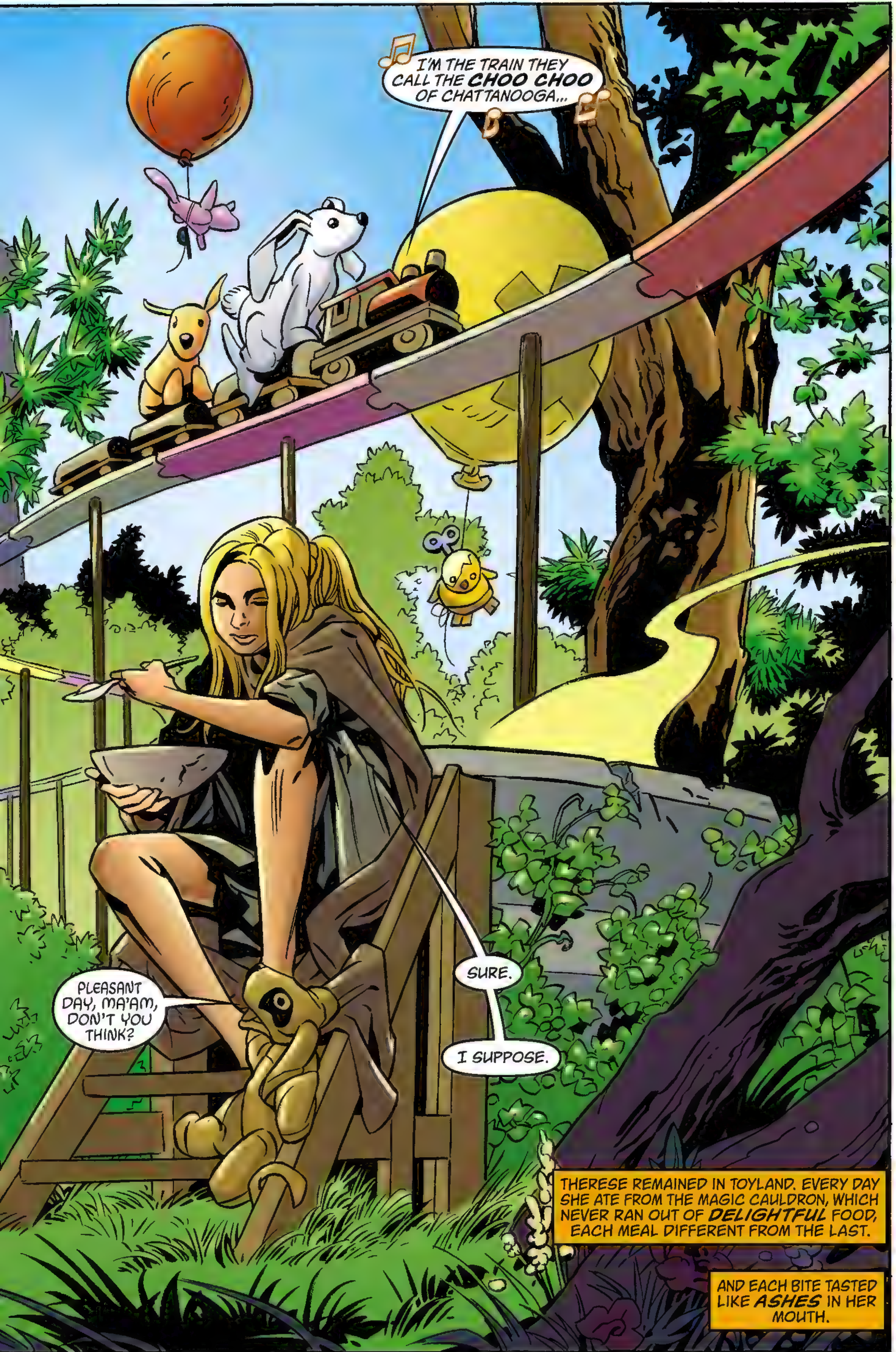
TOYLAND BECAME A **BETTER** PLACE OVER THOSE MANY YEARS. BLUE DAY AND VELVET NIGHT RETURNED TO REPLACE THE ENDLESS MISERY OF GRAY MIST.

THE LAND AND ITS QUEEN WERE ONE.

FEELS SQUISHY UNDER MY FELT.

HEY, GILLY, I CAN SEE YOUR **HOUSE** FROM HERE.





I'M THE TRAIN THEY
CALL THE **CHOO CHOO**
OF CHATTANOOGA...

PLEASANT
DAY, MA'AM,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

SURE.

I SUPPOSE.

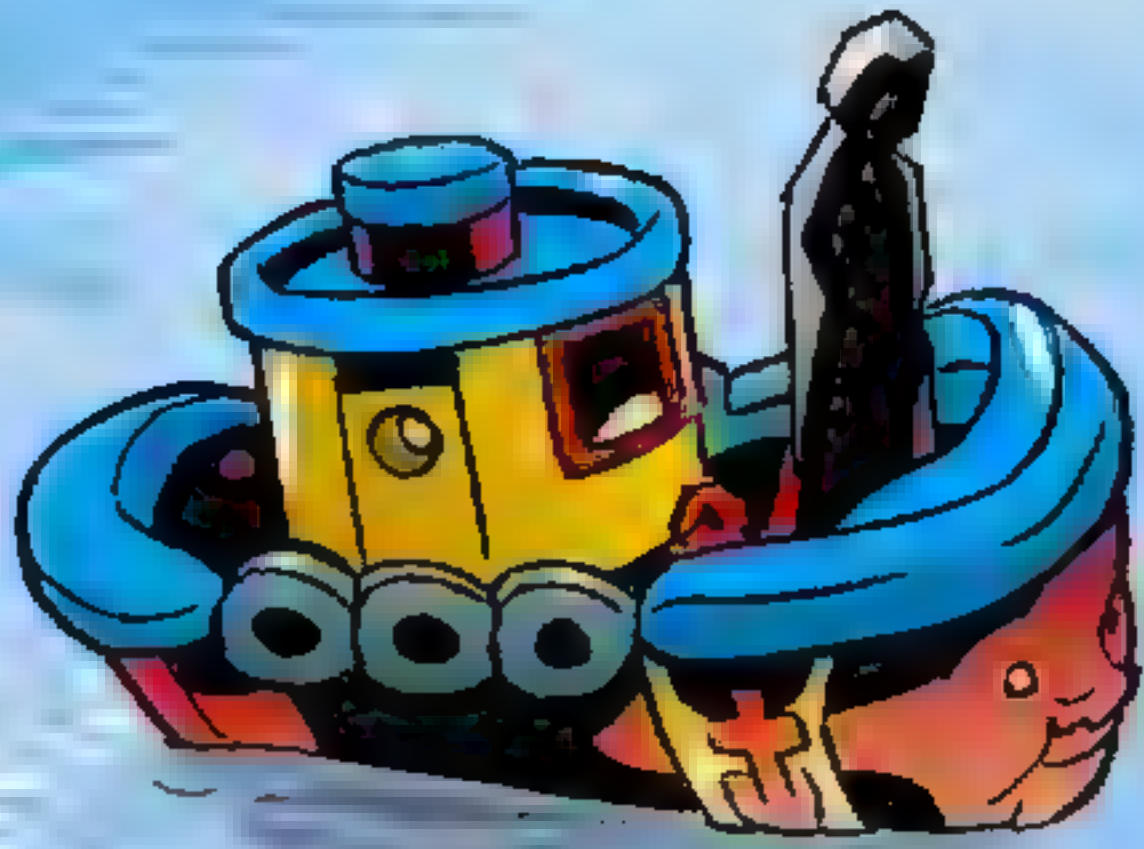
THERESE REMAINED IN TOYLAND. EVERY DAY SHE ATE FROM THE MAGIC CAULDRON, WHICH NEVER RAN OUT OF **DELIGHTFUL** FOOD, EACH MEAL DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST.

AND EACH BITE TASTED LIKE **ASHES** IN HER MOUTH.



EPILOGUE

IN TIME, WHEN MOST OF HER SUBJECTS HAD BEEN RESTORED, AND THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN HAD BEEN SAVED, THESE RETURNED TO THE MUNDY WORLD.

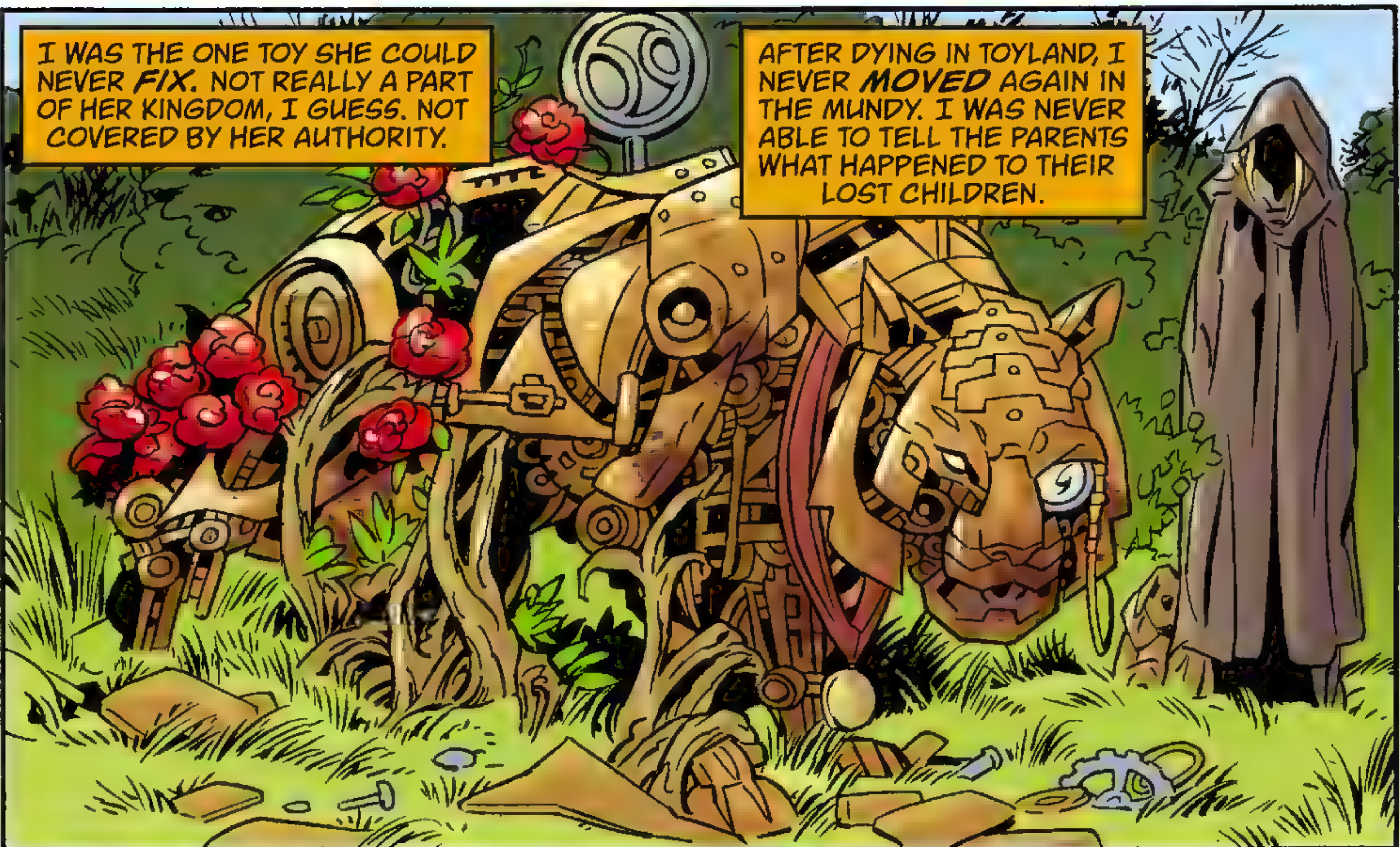


WAIT HERE, PLEASE, MR. STEAM-PUDDLE. I WON'T BE LONG.

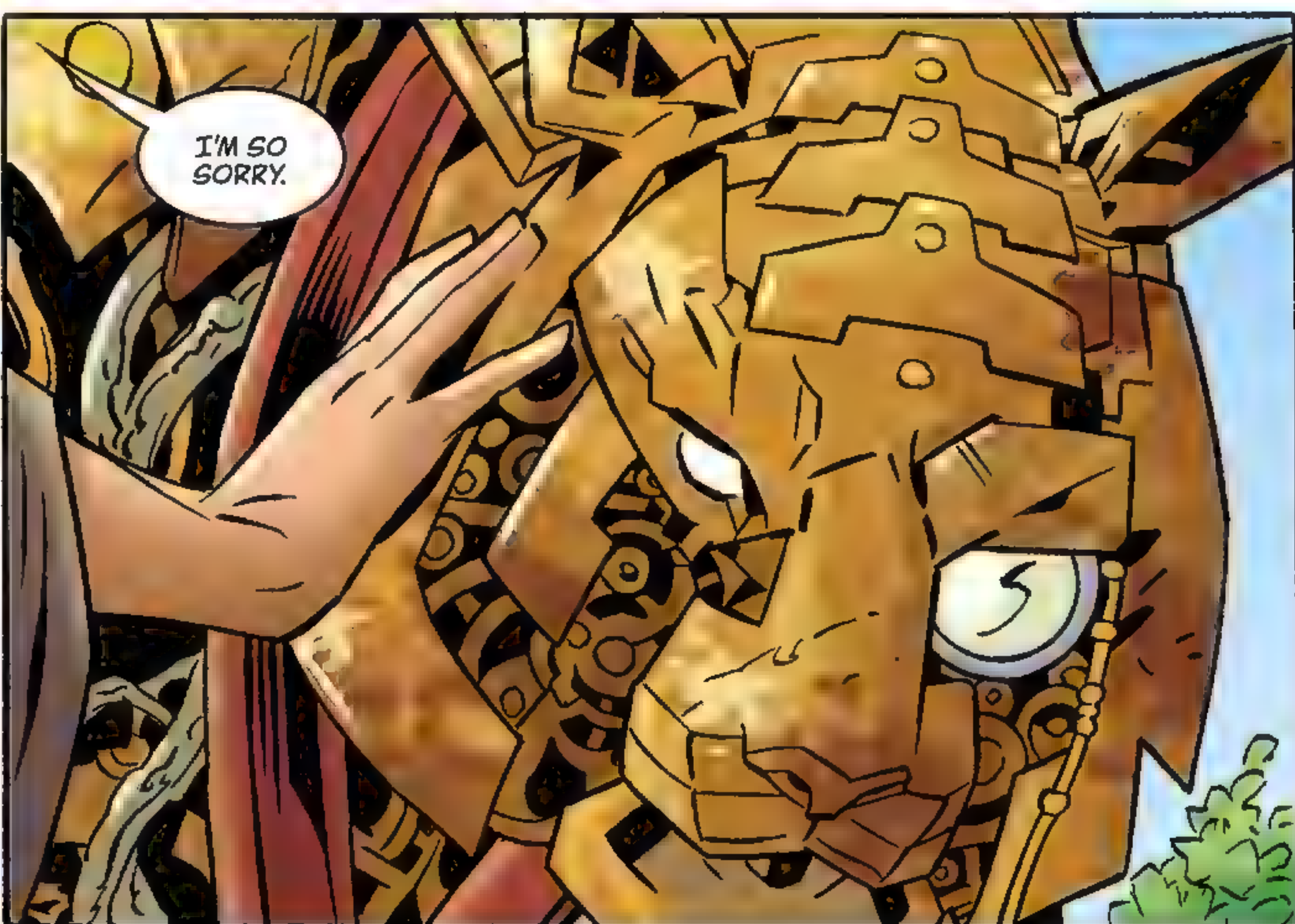


I WAS THE ONE TOY SHE COULD NEVER *FIX*. NOT REALLY A PART OF HER KINGDOM, I GUESS. NOT COVERED BY HER AUTHORITY.

AFTER DYING IN TOYLAND, I NEVER *MOVED* AGAIN IN THE MUNDY. I WAS NEVER ABLE TO TELL THE PARENTS WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR LOST CHILDREN.



I'M SO SORRY.



COME ALONG, REX.



ONE DAY THERESE DELIVERED THE NEWS I COULDN'T.

MOM?

!

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU **RECOGNIZE ME**. THE YEARS PASSED DIFFERENTLY WHERE I...

I'M THERESE.

I'VE COME TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO DARE-- HOW HE **SAVED ME**.

WHERE'S DAD?



NEXT: A NEW STORY!

A REVOLUTION in **OZ**

Chapter Eight: FLIGHT WITHOUT WINGS

Bill Willingham
writer/creator

Shawn McManus
artist

Todd Klein letters

Gregory Lockard
assistant editor

Shelly Bond editor

THREE MONTHS
LATER...

WE
SHOULDN'T
MARCH IN
THE OPEN,
SIR.

WE'RE
VISIBLE TO
ANY OF THE ENEMY'S
AIR PATROLS THAT
MAY HAPPEN
BY.

WE'VE
NO CHOICE.
OUR EMPEROR
COMMANDS
IT.

WANTS US
TO SHOW THE
COLORS.

PROVE
THAT HE
STILL **RUNS**
THINGS.





I DIDN'T WANT THIS.

THERE ARE WAYS TO DO A REVOLUTION THAT DON'T REQUIRE A HIGH BODY COUNT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

MY BOYFRIEND IS VERY WELL-READ.

REALLY? LOOKS SORT OF *BLUSH* TO ME.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR *BUFKIN* THE LIBERATOR!

ALL HAIL *BUFKIN*-- THE ONLY MONKEY WHO CAN FLY WITHOUT WINGS!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I--WELL, UH, I WAS TRYING FOR SOMETHING *POETIC*.

STIRRING, WITHOUT-- Y'KNOW-- BEING SO LITERAL.

NEXT:
All the Marbles!

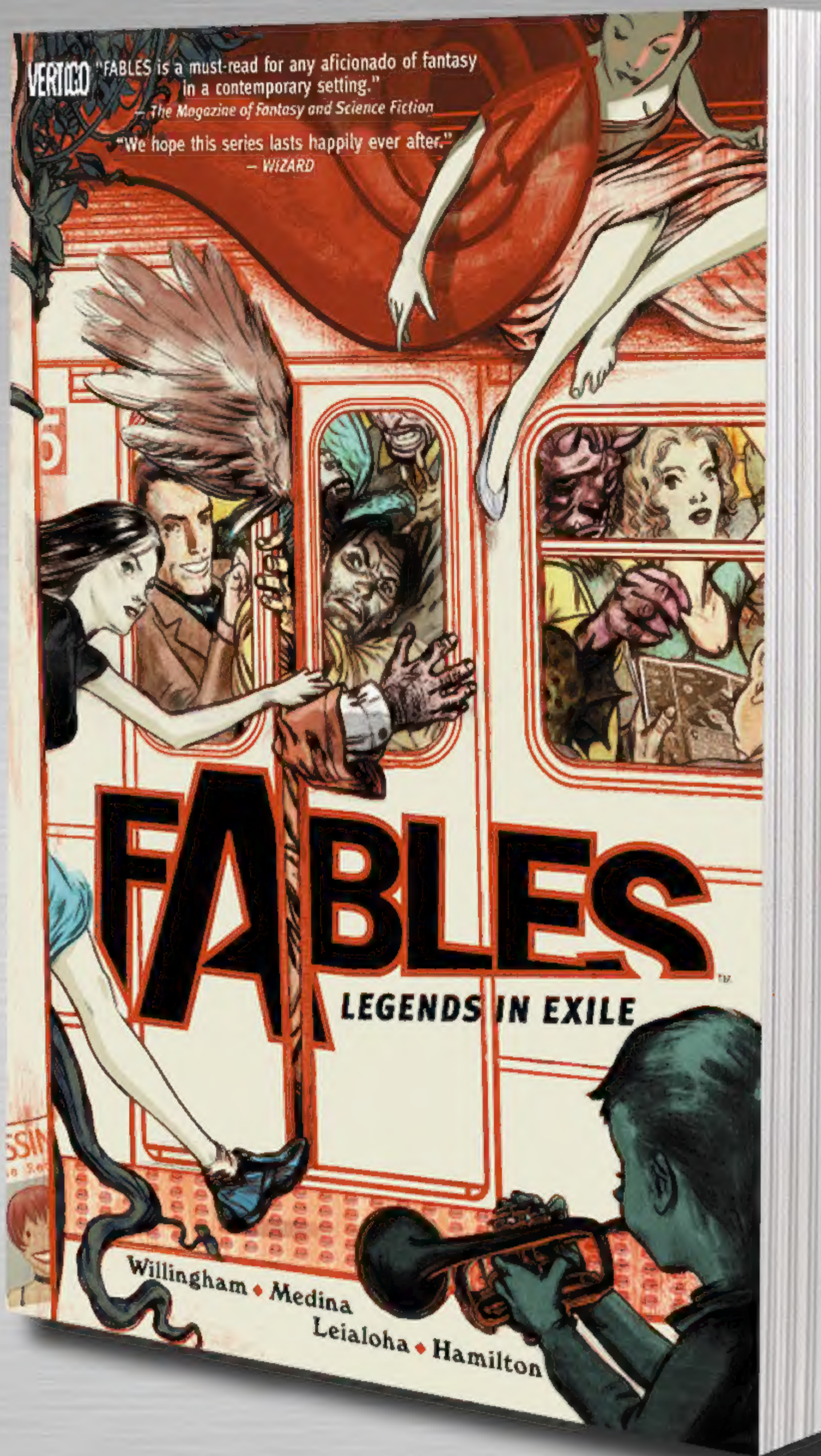
"FABLES is an excellent series in the tradition of SANDMAN, one that rewards careful attention and loyalty." – ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

BILL WILLINGHAM

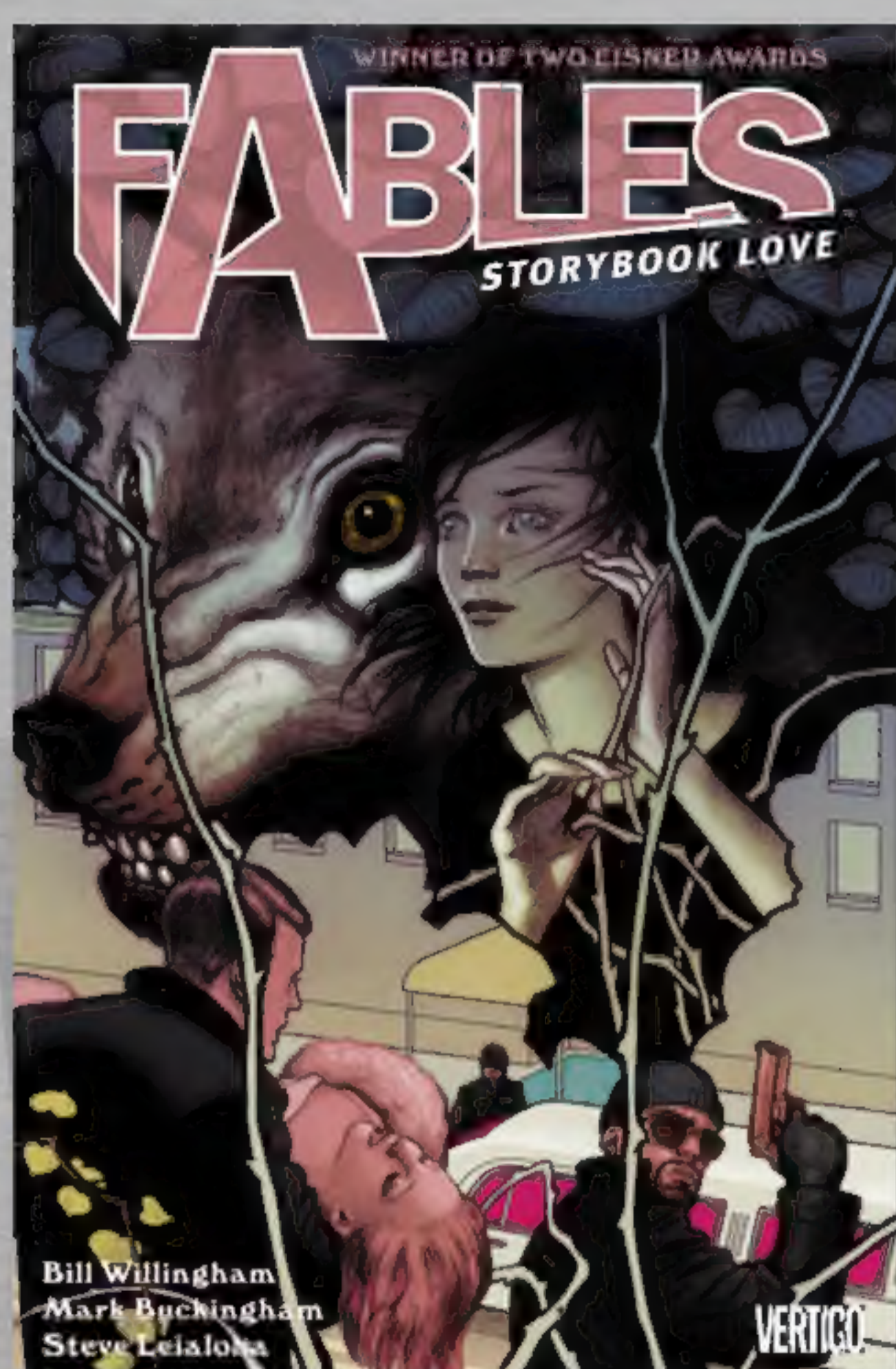
"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York." – THE WASHINGTON POST



- VOL. 1: LEGENDS IN EXILE**
- VOL. 2: ANIMAL FARM**
- VOL. 3: STORYBOOK LOVE**
- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS**
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS**
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS**
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)**
- VOL. 8: WOLVES**
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE**
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE**
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES**
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES**
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER**
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL**



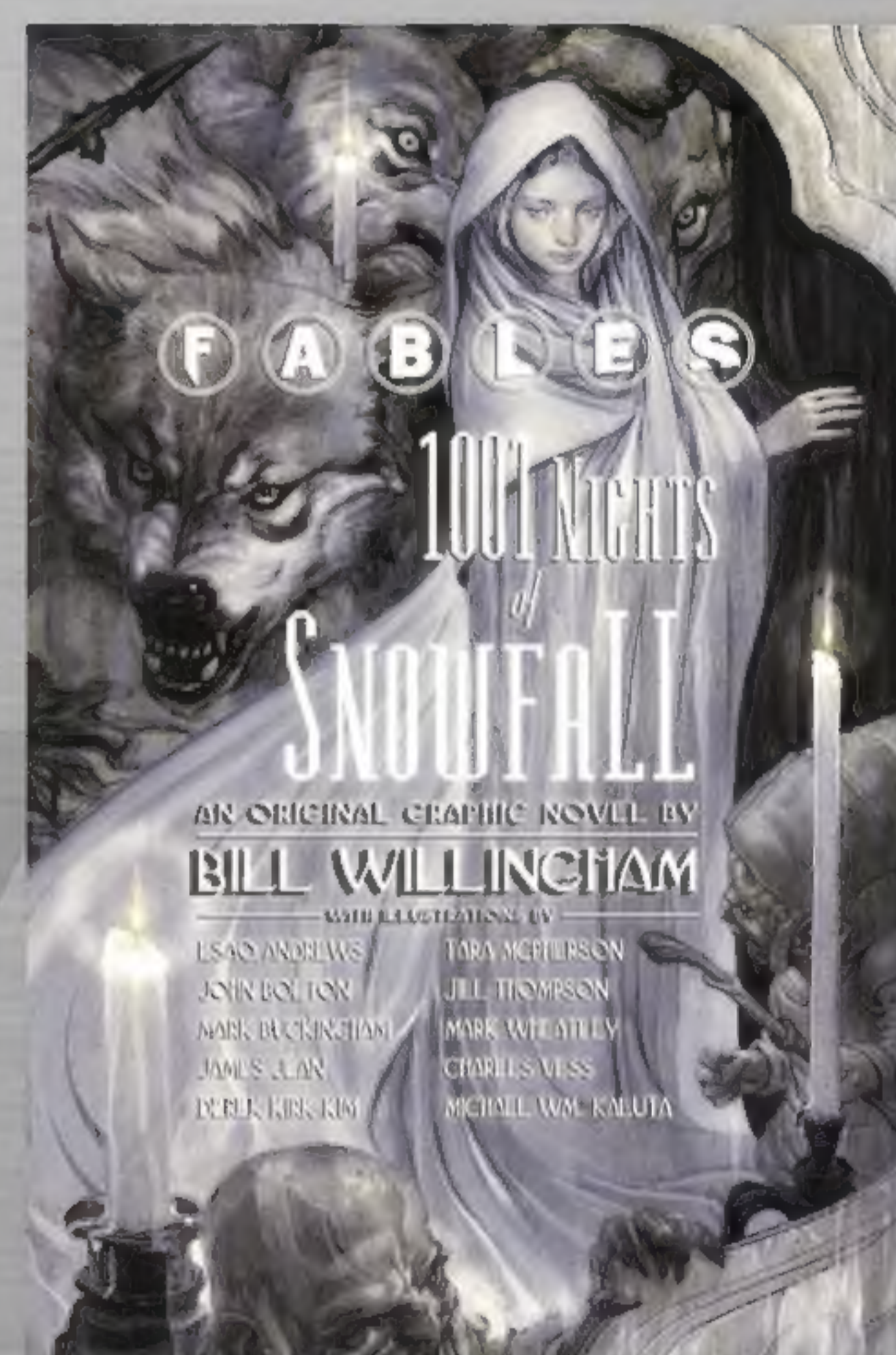
FABLES VOL. 3:
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:
HOMELANDS

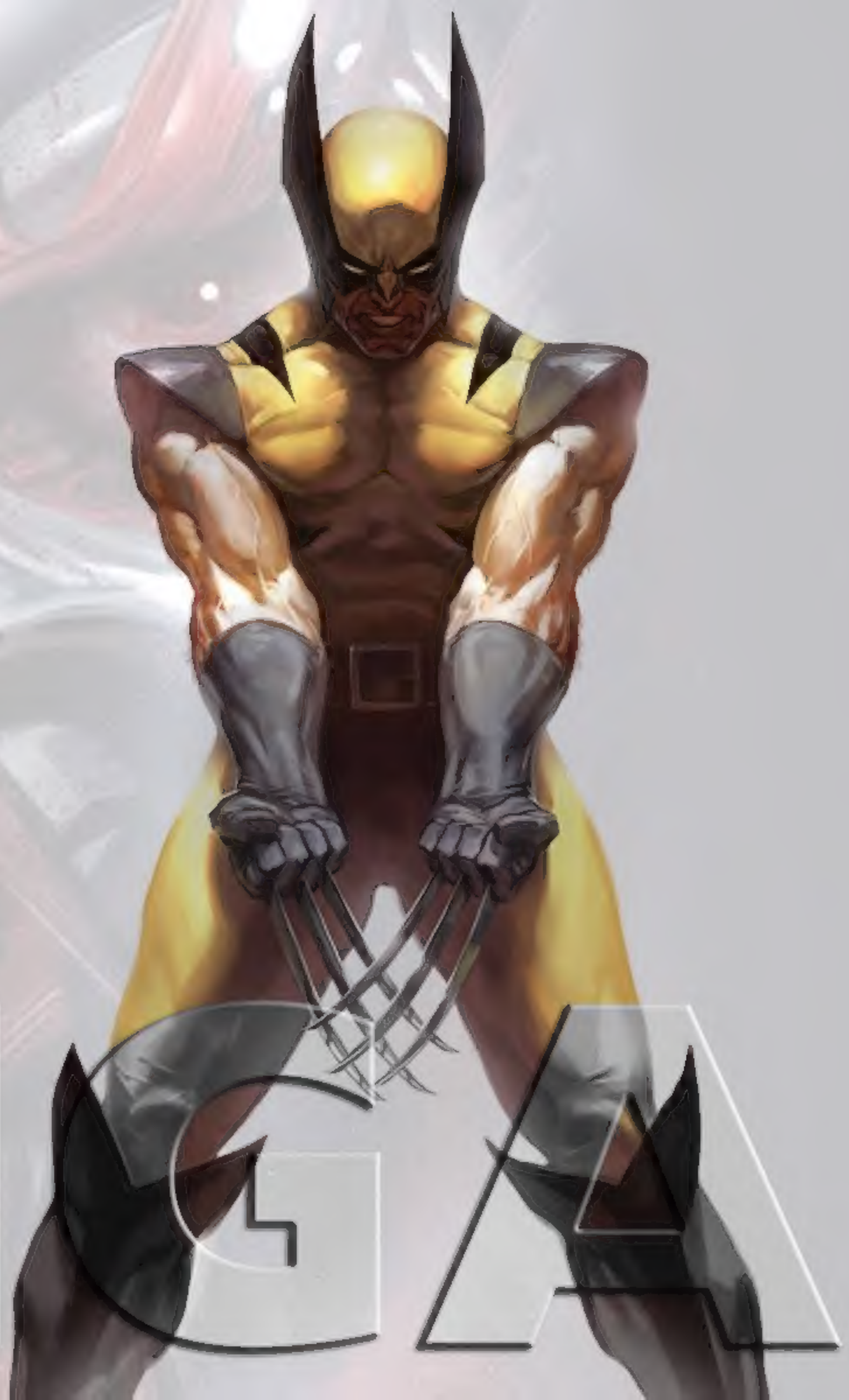


FABLES:
1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**

Suggested for Mature Readers



NATHAN